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GO DARK.
SHINE BRIGHT.

BEING A **LIVING WITNESS** ON SOCIAL MEDIA

—D.L. Moody

“In the place God has put us he expects us to shine, to be ***living witnesses,*** to be a bright and shining light. While we are here our work is to shine for him.”

- D. L. Moody

INTRODUCTION TO THIS GUIDE

Greetings,

Thank you for participating in the “Go Dark, Shine Bright” campaign. Our goal is to see the gospel proclaimed to the world through the physical and digital witness of the body of Christ.

This guide is a short primer to help you prepare for a ten day social media fast. It offers some practical steps you can take to get ready to take ten days off social media. Being prepared for the fast is an important part of this campaign.

The materials you can use for study, prayer, and reflection during the “Go Dark, Shine Bright” campaign are not included in this guide. They will ultimately be found at godarkshinebright.org. We would encourage you to look at the articles or download the devotional pieces available at our site.

We are excited to see what God will do during this campaign and, in the spirit of Dwight Moody, we hope that “if we only lead one soul to Jesus Christ we may set a stream in motion that will flow on when we are dead and gone.”

Blessings,

James Spencer, PhD
Vice President and COO | Moody Center

1 LET PEOPLE KNOW YOU ARE GOING DARK

Social media is a great place to keep up with friends and family. In addition to encouraging those you know to participate in Moody Center's "Go Dark, Shine Bright" campaign, let those in your social network know that you will be going dark for the next ten days in order to pray and study God's word. Give them a sense of why you feel it is important to participate in the campaign and let them know they will be hearing from you when you come back from your ten day hiatus.

2 DELETE YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA APPS

Don't be tempted to check out those notifications or see if a previous post got another "like." Deleting your social media apps will make it much less convenient for you to check in on those platforms. Part of the "Go Dark, Shine Bright" campaign depends on your willingness to set aside social media to spend more time in prayer and study, so deleting your apps and shutting off your email or even your text notifications for at least that part of the day when you will be in prayer or study will allow you to be as distraction free as possible. You can always re-install the apps and turn the notifications back on when the fast is over.

SOME GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

1. *No Call-Outs-* Stay away from ad hominem arguments (arguments that attack an institution, person or group) and choose instead to deal with positions and decisions critically, respectfully, and graciously.

2. *Don't Say More than You Can-* Keep speculation about the motivations or hidden causes of events to a minimum particularly when addressing events or actions perceived as negative.

3. *Offer a Unique Perspective (or at least try to)-* Piling on top of the heap after the tackle has been made isn't exactly a contribution... find a new angle on the situation and think through it. If you don't think you can contribute, don't comment.

4. *Avoid 'Sizzle' without 'Steak'-* "Man bites dog" is always a more interesting story than "Dog bites Man," but sometimes the more mundane stories of God's work in and through His people (the things we hear less about in the news) are the most profound. Try to offer substance without writing another dissertation.

3 MAKE A PLAN

While Moody Center will be providing resources that you can use during your ten day social media fast, there are still some decisions that you will need to make. Consider the following questions:

How much time was I really spending on social media?
You may find that you have more time to devote to study and prayer than you think.

When will I pray and study?
There is a difference between concentrated time in prayer and scrolling Facebook or Instagram. You will want to carve out time to pray and study when you won't be interrupted or otherwise distracted.

How will I study?
All the resources we are providing will be available digitally, but that doesn't mean you can't print them. You may find it helpful to get away from your digital device and pull out your paper Bible for a time of dedicated study.

4 FOCUS ON THE URGENT

We have a way of allowing the urgent overshadow the important. For the next ten days, try to think about prayer and Bible study as the urgent tasks you need to accomplish. Take some time to think about the activities you engage in during the day that simply are not as urgent as prayer and Bible study.

SOME TIPS FOR REORIENTING OUR DESIRES

1. *Find and Be Driven by Your Deepest Desires-* Ultimately, the void we need to fill...that deep yearning and desire for something we lack can only be filled by Christ. Once we recognize that nothing else we could ever want will fulfill us like being a part of God's people and participating in the mission of God, making decisions about the other things we may want can only become clearer.

2. *Make Yourself Wait-* We live in a world where finding and getting what we want is relatively simple. Avoiding the temptation to navigate to Amazon.com and have what you want shipped overnight might help us to consider whether getting what we want is really that important.

3. *Think Forward-* Identify the tangible ways acting on a desire can improve your well-being longer-term. If you think about how you will experience something in six months (i.e. will getting all those post likes really matter to you next year), you may make different decisions in the present.

4. *Count the Cost-* If we only think about how something we really want makes our lives better, we really aren't thinking. Consider what you are losing by spending time on social media. Figure out what those free platforms are really costing you and decide how you want to use them based on a thorough accounting of the costs and benefits.

5 BEGIN YOUR FAST WITH PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE

The goals of the “Go Dark, Shine Bright” campaign are (1) to refocus God’s people on God and his word and (2) to help God’s people proclaim the reality of God to a broken world. As you begin your fast, consider praying through Psalm 1 and Matthew 28: 16-20. You will find prayers based on these texts on the next two pages.

PRAYING PSALM 1

Lord, we ask that you will make us a blessed people who do not walk in the wicked's counsel, stand in the sinners's way, or sit in the scoffers's seat, but who find such delight in your instruction that it is always on our hearts, minds, and lips.

Make us like a well-watered tree, nurtured to bear fruit and prosperous in all you give us to do. Keep us from being like those who oppose you. Their plans have the appearance of wisdom, but will ultimately come to nothing when you come to weigh and measure human works.

We trust you and know that your judgment is always righteous. Thank you for showing us your path—the path that leads to life—in your Word and through your Son Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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PRESERVE THE LEGACY.
CONTINUE THE MISSION.

Moody Center's historic property in Northfield, Massachusetts, has a story to tell. Though that story centers on the life and ministry of Dwight Moody, he is not the story's hero—God is. By preserving the buildings and sites at Moody Center in Northfield, we also create the opportunity to proclaim the gospel to all of our visitors. In telling the story of D. L. Moody, we convey to the world that God works in and through the lives of those who allow themselves to be overshadowed by God for the sake of the gospel.

Moody Center is more than a preservation society. We are a catalyst for spiritual renewal. As such, we seek to partner with and supplement the work of ministries involved in evangelism and discipleship. When you support Moody Center, you are doing more than preserving the legacy of D. L. Moody, you are helping us to continue the mission of God in New England and beyond.

Moody Center is an independent non-profit organization. Moody Center is not affiliated with Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.

PRAYING THE GREAT COMMISION

God, we acknowledge that you have given Christ “all authority in heaven and earth.” We are grateful for his life, his sacrificial death, and his resurrection. We acknowledge the great love you showed in sending your son to die for us so that all who believe may have eternal life with you.

Give us a passion to go into a broken world that needs to know you to proclaim your message. Give us a desire to make disciples so that your name can be made great in all the earth. Give us a deep sense of your presence so that we may have the boldness to share the gospel and the commitment to do the hard work of discipleship.

Teach us, O Lord, to obey your commandments and to teach others who dedicate themselves to following you. Keep us close, empower us, and make us faithful witnesses to you in this world.

Amen.

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