

www.godarkshinebright.org

GO DARK SHINE BRIGHT

breaking the internet to proclaim the gospel



“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,

In 1899, Dwight Moody issued what would be his final invitation to God's people to come to Northfield, MA, to pray, worship, study, and discern the Holy Spirit together. The D. L. Moody Center exists to echo that call.

The "Go Dark, Shine Bright" campaign is one of the ways we echo Dwight Moody's call. The campaign seeks to mobilize God's people to (1) pray together for revival, (2) read the Scriptures, and (3) consider what God is doing in the world and how He is prompting each of us and all of us to proclaim the gospel, build the church, and glorify Hi.

This guide is a short primer to help you prepare for the ten day social media fast. It offers some practical steps you can take to get ready for 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 on our website (godarkshinebright.org).

We are excited to see what God will do during this campaign and thank you for participating.

Blessings,

James Spencer, PhD
President | D. L. Moody Center

D. L. MOODY CENTER

Invest in the growth of God's people by partnering with the D. L. Moody Center as we seek to bring revival to the church by convening and challenging God's people and proclaiming the gospel to those who need to hear it.

www.moodycenter.org





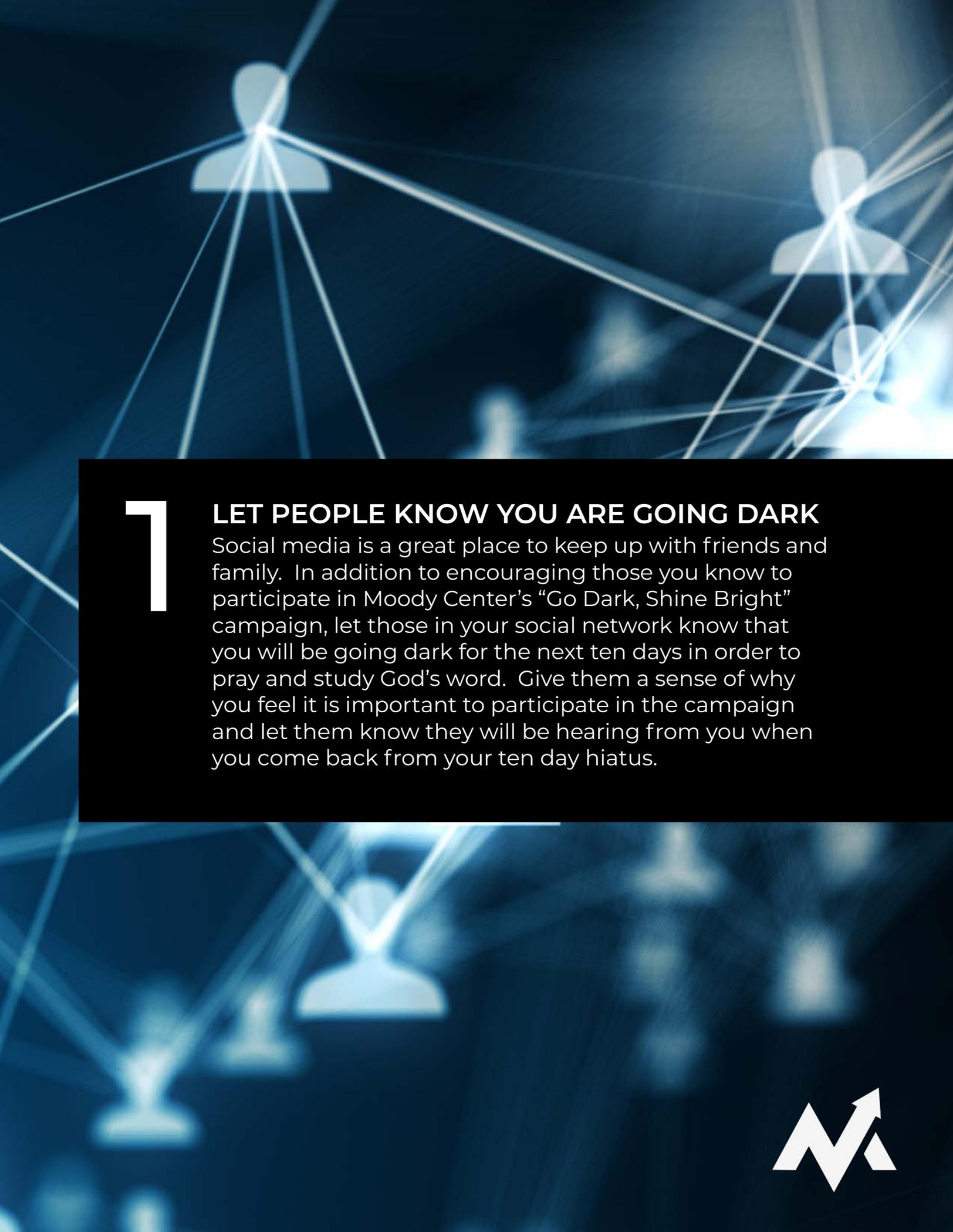
SHINE BRIGHT 365

Utilizing multi-day challenges designed to encourage God's people to walk by faith, not sight, Shine Bright 365 guides Christians through exercises designed to challenge them to put their faith into practice by being doers of God's word.

Shine Bright 365 is more than a daily devotional. It is a set of prescribe exercises intended to help God's people be "doers of the word" (James 1:22).

Launching June 2022

www.theshinebrightproject.org



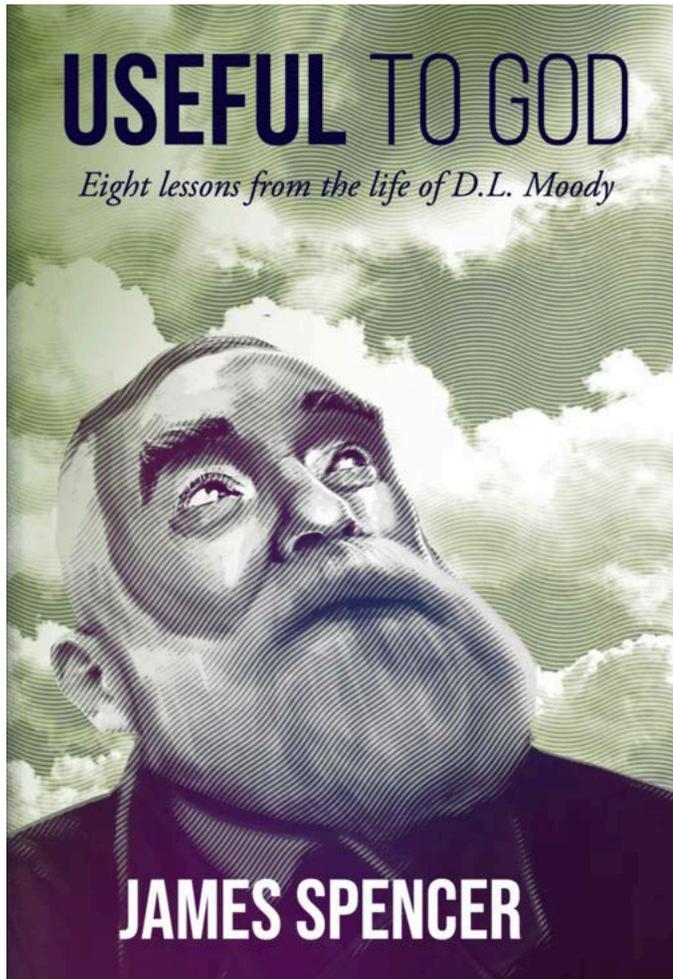
1 LET PEOPLE KNOW YOU ARE GOING DARK

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.



USEFUL TO GOD

A NEW BOOK FROM DR. JAMES SPENCER,
PRESIDENT OF THE D. L. MOODY CENTER



"...I would rather die than live as I once did, a mere nominal Christian, and not used by God in building up His kingdom...Let us seek to be useful. Let us seek to be vessels meet for the Master's use, that God, the Holy Spirit, may shine fully through us."

D.L. Moody.

In addition to taking a fresh look at the seven characteristics included in R. A. Torrey's classic work on Dwight Moody, *Useful to God* includes one additional characteristic that made Dwight Moody useful to God. *Useful* also includes multiple biblical reflections related to the eight characteristics discussed.

This fully illustrated work on D. L. Moody will be an excellent resource for individual study and small group discussion. Order your copy today at amazon.com.

Available now on amazon.com and kingdomwinds.com



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" will almost always be 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.





SOME TIPS FOR REORIENTING OUR DESIRES

1. *Be Driven by Your Desire to Serve the Lord*- 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 part of God's people and participating in His mission, 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. Avoid the temptation to navigate to Amazon.com so you can have what you want shipped overnight. Give yourself time to consider whether getting what you want in the moment 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.



4

FOCUS ON THE GOOD PORTION

We have a way of allowing the minor “emergencies” of the day to crowd out the more important, crucial tasks. Like Martha we busy ourselves with the tasks of the moment when we should be enjoying the good portion of sitting at Jesus’s feet like Mary.

For the next ten days, commit to spending some minimum amount of time sitting at the feet of Jesus. Even if it is only five minutes a day, you can begin to establish a discipline of dedicating your time to prayer and study.



5

SET A MINIMUM STANDARD

As you embark on your social media fast, commit to doing something that will help you grow spiritually for a certain amount of time each day. Changing old habits or developing new ones requires effort, but we still need to manage that effort. Committing to spending 5 or 10 minutes a day reading the Bible or some other Christian book, journaling, praying, or just sitting quietly will help you develop a consistent practice. You can always take more time, but setting a minimum standard will help you keep the commitment you are making to yourself.



CONVENE

CHALLENGE

PROCLAIM
