



Summer at Parkview - Week 6 August 3-4, 2019 | Todd Clark

This weekend, Pastor Todd encourages us as we navigate living in an increasingly connected world.

CELEBRATE

At the beginning of your small group time, it's good to share about your week and share with each other how you're doing. So, spend some time, right now, connecting before jumping into the discussion questions. You can use the *Connect* section as a guide. If you're doing this Study Guide on your own, take a moment to focus your mind on God and what He might want you to hear today.

CONNECT

1. Talk about a time you were unbelievably confused while using technology. Who do you usually run to for help in times like that?
2. Think back to the time in your life that you felt as lonely as ever. Talk about what that experience was like and why you felt that way.

Before watching the sermon, or moving on in this study, take a minute to remember that God is always with you. Pray as a group for God to bless your conversation and open your eyes and hearts to what He wants you to hear.

REFLECT

Before moving forward in your study, take a moment and review the key points from this weekend's message.

1. We are as connected as ever but as lonely as ever.
2. We live in a world of Gutenbergers and Googlers.
3. Good guardrails will bring freedom and safety to your family.
4. Good goals will bring purpose and focus to your family.
5. We're meant to use technology to encourage and share our faith. And we should always T-H-I-N-K before we post.

SCRIPTURES USED IN THE MESSAGE: Psalm 46:10 119:11; Proverbs 4:23, 29:15; Habakkuk 1:5; Ephesians 5:15-17; Philippians 4:8

RESPOND

1. Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this weekend's message that stood out to you. Share what made it resonate with you.
2. Pastor Todd said that though our world is as connected as ever, we're also as lonely as ever. Have you seen this to be true? If so, share some ways in which you've noticed this.
3. Read Mark 1:29-37. Read slowly and out loud if possible. Something interesting about Mark's Gospel is that he writes in a seemingly *hurried* tone - using words like "immediately" or "at once" often. Many believe it's because he is so anxious to share his incredible conclusion of Jesus' resurrection. Yet, as he writes, he includes many stories like the one we just read in his writing - times where Jesus *slows down* and seeks solitude.
4. In Mark 1:37, we see that there are many people looking for Jesus. Yet Jesus often retreats to spend time alone with His Father. He encourages us to live with His same posture of prayer. Do you find it challenging to do this in your day-to-day life in the midst of your busyness? If so, talk about what makes it challenging for you.
5. One could argue that Jesus was always *in demand*. People were constantly looking to Him for teaching, healing and companionship. It's a little bit like always having our cell phone in our hand or in our pocket. Talk about ways that you've seen technology take over your life. Or maybe how you feel when your cell phone dies, leaving you devastatingly disconnected.
6. Talk about a time you engaged in an activity or practice that drew you closer to God. How have you made that activity or practice a regular occurrence?
7. There's a famous quote that says, "Christians should be in the world, but not of the world." (Built from John 15:19, 17:14-16). Our solution to these struggles doesn't need to be moving to a deserted island away from technology. But it's important to use wisdom as we navigate living in this world. Share with your group one way they could hold you accountable in the way you use technology this week - maybe it's limited screen time, the things you post or how often you have your phone on. Talk about a guardrail you're going to put in place.

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank you for always being there for us, even when we're blind to your presence. This week, we want to look away from the distractions of this world as we seek after you. We thank you for the time you allow us to connect with each other as we learn how to better take steps towards Jesus. We pray that you would soften our hearts to the ways in which we can lean into you this week as we navigate living in our increasingly connected world. Help us remember that our main source and connection is you.

Amen.