

***Middle School & High School
Sunday School Lesson 10
August 9, 2020***

Be “Insta”



UNIT 3
LESSON 2



Be “Insta”



Bible Point

Paul instructed us to be instant in season and out of season. Much of being a witness is taking advantage of moments when people are open.

In this lesson we will explore how to identify and take advantage of those moments.

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:2

(Jesus final instruction to His disciples was to make disciples by sharing the good news of the gospel. This series invites us to get social with our faith by presenting practical tools to share the gospel with others.)

Be “Insta”



Insta-Famous

Read II Timothy 4:2

Instagram is one of the most successful apps in history. Instagram is a way to instantly share what is going on in your life with everyone with whom you are connected.

*Some people have obtained a measure of fame on Instagram by sharing short clips or pictures of their adventures, they have gone viral. **The quickest way to go viral is by jumping on a trendy hashtag.***

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Insta-Witness

Paul instructed young Timothy to be instant about sharing the gospel. In other words, regardless of the circumstance in which he found himself, Timothy should always be ready to declare the Word of God.

What if we looked just as carefully for an opportunity to share the gospel as we did for an opportunity for the next great selfie?

*If your phone is tucked away when a photo opportunity arises, you may miss that perfect shot at an epic post. **If your witness is tucked away when the opportunity arises, you may miss that perfect shot at an opportunity to present someone with the story of Jesus Christ.***

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Moments

Make the moments count: We must pray, study, and prepare. Then we can take advantage of what may be a single moment in someone's life when something opens that person up to hearing the salvation message. ***When you see the moment, be instant.***

Identify moments: There are certain times in people's lives when they tend to be more **open** to hearing the gospel than at other times: When they are actively exploring their faith, when they experience tragedy or crisis, when they are dealing with transition, when their circle of friends changes, etc.

These are good moments to lovingly step in, presenting the love of Jesus and showing how He can minister to their situation.

Be “Insta”



Be Self(ie)less

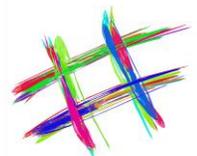
Selfies are about being the center of attention. Although our post may be about the background or the people with whom we are hanging out with, the focus of the attention is on ourselves.

If we are going to be instant in our faith, we must turn the attention away from ourselves and toward those we are trying to reach.

Only by demonstrating love and concern for others will doors open to us to help them explore their faith.

Be “Insta”

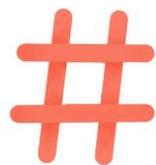




Hashtag the Conversation

What's the significance of a hashtag? It connects your post with others who are experiencing the same thing all over the world. It is how you fit into the bigger picture; it creates a sense of community.

*When sharing your faith, you need to “hashtag” the conversation. **Find a way to connect others' experiences to scriptural truths or Bible stories that can build their faith.***



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Ditch the Filter

An Instagram filter is designed to improve a less-than-perfect picture. It takes something that is not quite what it should be and enhances it.

When we share our faith, sometimes we feel we need to put ourselves on a pedestal or present ourselves as if we have all the answers. We do not have to do that though.

When we are honest about similar struggles we have faced, we know that Jesus' mercy is not just for perfect people; it is for people who feel their lives could use an Instagram filter as well.

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Just Share It

The most important thing about being instant in our faith is not getting everything right; it is just sharing it.

*The trouble with a Latergram is the moment has already passed. **Take advantage of the moment and even if you fall over your words, step out in faith and see what Jesus will do.***



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Explore

What is one way you can take the focus off your life and put it on Jesus?

How can you ditch the filter in your life?

What is a way you can overcome fear of sharing your faith?



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Expand

We do not have to be perfect to win people to Jesus. In reality, the fact that we are not perfect enhances our witness. What is a testimony of a time when God came through for you in a bad situation? How would you use that story to help a friend in the same situation?

*Instagram is just one platform where everyday people are finding crazy levels of fame. Sometimes they find fame for seemingly no reason; their story, style, or sense of humor resonated with people who follow them. There are people connected to you for the same reasons. **People are following you, because they connect with your story, style, or sense of humor. You have a powerful opportunity to use your personal platform to make Jesus famous.***

Let your relationship with Jesus outshine you and be willing to share Him when you have the opportunity.

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