# Title: Religion and the Media: Is social media good or bad?

**Key Questions:** What should we stand for? Does justice/fairness for me get in the way of justice/fairness for others? What do believers mean by justice and fairness? How do believers identify and understand the concept of truth? Is curiosity a good thing? When can looking back be a negative thing to do? Can we think of any examples of “Fake News”?

**Key Concepts:** media, social media, truth, justice, free speech, satire, humour, morality, offence/blasphemy

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| **Learning objectives** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
| To be able to explain what social media is, what its advantages and dangers are and consider whether religious people should make use of it. | * Show a YouTube clip such as The Social Media Revolution 2022 or show a series of logos linked to different social media (students identify as many as they can within 20 seconds) * Students to brainstorm the different types of social media and note the amount of minutes they spend on each one. * List the positive things about using social media * Show a clip such as: Think Time: Teens and Social Networks that shows the dangers/challenges of social media * List the negative things about social media * Jam relay- requires two teams.   You will need Jam, bowls and baby wipes to clean hands afterwards.  Place Jam in bowls at one end class.  In a relay get each team to pass the jam  (not the bowl) from one end of the room to  the other, the team who does it fastest is  the winner.   * Ask students to consider how this links to social media * Explain that the Jam leaves hands sticky. Ask if hands hadn’t been cleaned what would have happened? Explain that they would have left sticky marks on things that were touched, explain that everything we do online leaves a mark: pictures we post on social media, pictures we send by text, the websites we go to are all registered and some of those things may stay with us for life. * Should religious people use social media? Discuss reasons for/against. * Consider ways that faith communities have utilised social media during and since Covid (e.g. virtual congregations, online prayer meetings), and the development of Bible/Qur’an apps and digital spaces for religious groups. * Share Naila Missous’ blog and the news about internet searches for ‘prayer’ during the pandemic * Show examples of ‘The Young Imam’ using social media * Read the prayer: A prayer for Christians on social media. * Students either write own prayer: A prayer for a Believer on Social Media or design a poster for a particular religious tradition suggesting rules for how to behave on social media backed up with quotes from scripture * Have a vote: Is social media good or bad?   and is Social media good or bad for religion? | Social Media Revolution 2022 clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZmT7puLjqI  Social media images  Think Time: Teens and Social Networks: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TWHsiMYSxw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TWHsiMYSxw)  Jam  Naila Missous blog ‘How I engage with faith on social media’ https://www.reonline.org.uk/2021/05/26/how-i-engage-with-faith-on-socoal-media/  Internet search for ‘prayer’ surges during pandemic:  <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/climate-and-people/pandemic-prompts-surge-interest-prayer-google-data-show/>  Christians on social media:  <http://www.kevinhalloran.net/social-media-prayer/>  Muslims on social media:  <https://theyoungimam.com/>  Religious quotes |