

# Social Media Guidelines

*Your social media presence is a direct reflection of your place of worship and ministry.*

Social Media is today's main communication tool to share your voice, connect with friends and family, and/or encourage others. As an FSM cell leader, you are seen by students, parents and your followers as an ambassador of the church and ultimately Christ. Therefore, it is important to remember that those seeing your posts will connect them with your **ministry**, your church and your beliefs. Here are a few things to remember:

Think...

...about using your social media presence to encourage others, share positive things, and ultimately point to Jesus. FSM leaders should remain positive and encouraging on all their social media accounts. Anything you post that **could be construed negatively** could reflect badly on your ministry or on the hope you have in Christ. *"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things."* (Philippians 4:8)

...about John 13:35. *...that the world would know we are His disciples by our love for one another.* When we criticize others, non-believers may see us as hypocritical. Focus on those you want to emulate rather than those **with whom you disagree**.

...about James 1:19. *Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.* It's easy to be misunderstood or to misunderstand others when **communication** is over the internet – you can't hear tones of voices, see body language, or know where something is coming from. Hold your tongue and pray before you respond to something on social media.

...about Proverbs 15:1. *A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.* You are more likely to do more damage than good when you get involved in **heated debate** on social media. Again, remember that anything you share reflects on your ministry and your witness to Christ.

...what you post is permanent. Social media is fast-paced and fast-changing; therefore one might think that what is posted is inconsequential. However, once something is posted on the internet, you should consider it permanent – and something permanent requires a huge amount of discretion before acting on it.

...before posting a photo. Use good judgment and remember again that what you're posting is permanent. In Romans 14, Paul tells us to, *"decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother."* In general, when in doubt about a photo, just don't post it. *Do ask yourself, "Am I comfortable with this reflecting back on my church?"* We ask that you be mindful and think, *"would I want my cell group posting this picture?"* Usually, if you have to question it, you shouldn't post it.

As FSM cell leaders, we ask you to live lives that exemplify Godly character and are above reproach. Your position as a leader and influencer of students means you simply *must* exercise discretion, humility, and empathy in your social media presence as it can and will reflect on the church, on other Christians and most of all, on Christ.