



{3} ARE YOU INSTAGRAMMING JESUS?

If you had fifty free tickets to the hottest concert in town, how long would it take you to get the word out to your friends? How many people could you instantly reach out to with such amazing news?

We live in an incredibly connected world. Most youth have the ability to interact with hundreds of friends on a device that is carried in your pocket! What a sweet opportunity for a Christian teenager to let the light of Jesus shine amongst your friends.

Matthew 5:14-16 says,

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

If you are following the way of Jesus, His light will shine in your life. Our journey is learning to allow that light to shine clearly through us for others to see.

I have over 600 friends on Facebook. But the truth is, I don't actually see most of those people for months at a time. So my presence online is the only regular window they have into my life. It's my chance to show them what is significant and central to me. It tells them the story of what it's important in my life.

Instagram, Tumblr, Blogspot, Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter...all these different platforms allow us to connect with hundreds of people. This is an amazing time we live in with incredible opportunities to let others see what our relationship with Jesus means to us.

Are you covering up the light in your life? Do your pictures, posts, comments or pins reflect the truth that you have a relationship with Jesus? I'm not suggesting that every post we make has to be formed in a prayer or every picture needs to be of us standing before a sunset with our arms stretched wide in worship...but our presence online tells a bit of our story. It's not the whole story, but it is an important reflection of our lives.

What would it look like to use your online presence as an way to let your light shine for others to see?

Some simple next steps...

- Take some time to think about the story you're telling your online friends. If you asked those people to talk about what's important in your life, what would they say?
- Talk about this stuff with other Christian teenagers. Acknowledge the goofy cheesy stuff that Christians sometimes do online, and start dreaming of authentic ways to let the light of Jesus shine through your online presence.