

Technology and Religion

Lesson 4: Film screening of “Disconnected”

3.10.2019

Objectives: Exploring what it may be like to disconnect from technology.

Materials: flipchart, DVD film, laptop/flatscreen.

Time allotments suggested for 50 minute class, followed by 25 minute closing service.

***Screening the film will take most of the class time. So please start on time.**

1. Nametags and Graffiti Wall (5 minutes before class begins)

- Make nametags using blank paper, markers, and holders. Youth can create their own unique but LEGIBLE nametag. Make it a regular practice to wear nametags.
- “Graffiti Wall” questions: Write the following on whiteboard. Invite youth as they arrive to grab a marker and weigh in with their responses:
 - ▶ What technology consumes most of your time and attention?
 - ▶ Have you ever tried to give up something or go without for any period of time? What was it?
- Teachers complete attendance sheets.

2. Chalice Lighting: Light the chalice, saying these words together: *“We light this chalice as a symbol of our faith, the light of truth and the warmth of love.”*

Teacher reads: (from journalist/novelist, Matt Haig; and anonymous)

“Places don't matter to people any more... People are only ever half present where they are these days. They always have at least one foot in the great digital nowhere.”

“The happiest person in the world is probably not on Facebook.”

3. Film viewing: Play preset portions of video. Class will view film today and use next class to discuss together. (45 minutes)

Teacher introduces documentary *Disconnected*: Three Carlton College students take on the challenge of taking a break from computer technology, to find out how their academic, social, and work lives are affected. No Facebook. No Emails. No YouTube. Are they able to get their schoolwork done? Will some of them cheat and find ways of using computer technology? Will they be able to complete the challenge? The documentary follows Andrew, Caitlin, and Chel as they learn to interact with themselves and with others without the use of computer technology.

Play video:

- a. Start at **37 seconds** and stop at **31:40 minutes** (when Dean of Students finishes talking)
- b. Drag the video progress bar to **46:14 minutes** and play until **60:00 minutes** when credits roll.
- c. Take 2 minutes and invite any initial responses to the film.

Assignment: Ask youth to come prepared for next class, having thought about what they would give up for a class experiment on “unplugging” from some aspect of digital/online technology use. As the goal is to make this as experientially meaningful as possible, youth should think about what’s realistic, feasible, not dangerous but challenging enough. **Pass out attached handout for youth to take home and consider.**

4. Extinguish the chalice, saying together:

“May the light of truth and the warmth of love go with us in our hearts.”

5. Help clean up classroom before leaving: Please keep regular practice of readying classroom for the next class.

- leave lesson plan and all materials organized
- wipe the whiteboard clean
- tables and chairs neatly returned
- nametags collected in Ziploc bag
- leave any comments for RE staff on attendance sheets