



Discussion Guide for “The Almighty Algorithms”

Social 2.0 Week 2

What's the harm in scrolling through social media, reading or watching whatever comes across our screens? We know in the abstract that tech companies use algorithms to determine what we see, but how often do we ask what those algorithms - and the companies who write them - want? How do these algorithms shape our spirituality? And how can we take responsibility for our feeds?

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. Get a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week's sacred reading is Philippians 4:1-8.

Questions for Discussion

1. Which social media do you use? How familiar are you with the algorithms that govern them?
2. “If the product is free, you are the product.” What do you make of this statement, especially as it relates to the logic behind social media?
3. Review the Mark of the Beast in Revelation 13. Were you surprised by JR.'s discussion of what it is? What parallels do you see to algorithms?
4. Review Paul's instructions in Philippians 4. How do your social media make it easier to embody these instructions? How do they make it more challenging?
5. What does it look like for you to take control of your algorithms?