



# Digital Media Usage for Christian Discipleship in Technological Disruption Era

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**Abstract.** Presently, the era of technological disruption is inescapable. Despite its negative impact, this era benefits church ministry, especially in discipleship. Through library research and observations of several digital media, the authors examine digital media usage for discipleship and the types of discipleship content produced in this technological disruption era. This era provides many potentials for discipleship, some of which are digital media that can be used as a medium for discipleship so that rapid discipleship can occur. In this era, discipleship materials can discuss topics related to sin and salvation, digital media ethics, teaching on doctrines, spirituality, and gospel communication. These topics can be contextually developed along with the development and context of discipleship. Research Contribution: Digital media are the result of technological developments whose usage is increasingly widespread in the era of technological disruption. Research results contribute to the scientific development of discipleship, specifically for using digital media for discipleship ministry in the technological disruption era.

**Keywords:** Christian Discipleship, Digital Media, Technological Disruption

## 1 Introduction

Discipleship is a ministry mandate Lord Jesus gave to His disciples' [1]. It is a crucial task for everyone who believes in Christ. The commandment of Jesus Christ is to make disciples and be able to disciple new souls. The disciple-making ministry aims to reach more people who follow Christ resulting in multiplication.

The era of technological disruption is marked by the current tangible shifting of the technology of the previous eras to faster, more modern, and more efficient digital technology. Muliaawaty explained that the Era of Disruption is marked by the dismantlement of the old pattern of church ministry towards a more modern online means [2]. The periodical shift from the traditional way to the use of technology and information eases school and church activities [3]. The era of technological disruption has an impact on ministry in the church.

The research by Hartono shows that people frequently use digital media to facilitate various activities in the disruption era [4]. The study of Octavianus, et al., also shows

that discipleship ministries in churches and schools are increasingly innovative, higher in quality, and acceptable to the general public [5]. Ronda elaborated that digital media has become important in church and school services. Technology cannot be hindered but continues to advance, with its positive and negative aspects. In the era of disruption, it is necessary to innovate in church and school ministry and utilize appropriate technology [6].

Based on these several studies, it is understood that it is still necessary to explore the potential of digital media in the era of disruption for discipleship, types of digital media for discipleship, and discipleship content in the disruption era. Based on this background, it is appropriate to ask how to use digital media for discipleship in the disruption era and what the contents of discipleship are in the technological disruption era. This research aims to discover the use of digital media for discipleship in the disruption era and present the contents of discipleship in the technological disruption era.

## **2 Methods**

This research is literature research since it explored various library sources related to digital media and the discipleship [7], [8]. Using several relevant literature sources, the authors described the potential and types of digital media for discipleship. The authors made observations on several digital media and found the possibility of their use. The authors then presented the proposed content for discipleship in the era of technological disruption. Such research and analysis approaches can be used in research related to theology [9], [10].

## **3 Findings and Discussion**

### **3.1 Digital Media Potentials for Discipleship in the Disruption Era**

The era of disruption is marked by the opening of access to various digital media. Digital media potentials in the technological disruption era are very high. Boileau and Polii explained that the disruption era provides various conveniences to Christian ministry, facilitating wider opportunities for spreading the Gospel [11]. Aldrin and Yudhy revealed that digital media are very effective in this era with limited physical and environmental encounters. This era can provide teaching or discipleship opportunities through Internet media without direct face-to-face sessions [12]. The technological disruption era has provided many conveniences for various activities [13]. The products of technology have great potential for discipleship. Fast internet access, accompanied by various digital means, has excellent potential for discipleship.

Discipleship and technology are not enemies. Technology can be integral to the discipleship process in the Industrial Revolution 4.0 era [14]. Discipleship is a maturing process in Christ, while digital media is a helpful tool to fulfill the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20 [15]. In discipleship for generations Y and Z, digital media can ease the discipleship ministry [16]. It shows that digital media in the technological

disruption era provides opportunities to fulfill the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20. Great potentials need to be utilized optimally in discipleship ministry.

### 3.2 Digital Media Types for Discipleship

Based on the authors’ observations on several digital media, the following digital media have significant advantages to the discipleship process in the era of technological disruption (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Types of Digital Media for Discipleship

Classification	Description	Media Types
Video meeting applications	Video meeting is widely used by various church organizations, church groups, and individuals. They use this means to meet virtually to discuss a variety of teaching materials. Through video meetings, it is possible to interact with many people from various places. Many people from anywhere can be involved in discipleship ministry with this means. However, it requires a stable internet network.	Google Meet, Zoom, Skype
Teaching and testimony videos	Some churches provide various teaching materials aimed at their communities as well as the public. Several platforms can be used. Some platforms facilitate the upload of long videos while others can only facilitate the upload of the short ones. The yesHeis application, for example, is an application that can be used as a medium for sharing testimonies and communicating the gospel [17]. The disadvantage is that participants cannot interact directly, since discipleship requires interaction between the mentor and the mentee.	YouTube, yesHeis app, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
Bible applications for desktop PCs and Android devices	In the era of technological disruption, people can use various Bible apps as a tool for discipleship. Some apps provide Bible translations in numerous languages, commentaries, Bible encyclopedias, and other materials. At Google Play Store, different applications can be downloaded and used for media to support discipleship. In Indonesia, the SABDA Bible Society Foundation is an institution that provides many PC- and Android-based applications. Such media are discipleship media that cannot be used for direct interaction, but provides a rich learning resource [16].	SABDA, Bibleworks, E-Sword, Android Bible, <i>Alkitabku</i> , <i>Tafsiran Alkitab Android</i> , <i>Kamus Alkitab Android</i> , <i>AlkitabPEDIA</i> , Study Bible, <i>Cerita Alkitab Terbuka</i>
Messaging applications	These applications are used to send personal and group chats. Through messaging apps, it is possible to communicate prayer lists, devotionals, testimonies, and counseling. Discipleship activities can be carried out here despite various social restrictions. Interactions in the form of sending and receiving messages are possible. Questions and answers can happen in the digital space between the mentor and the mentee.	WhatsApp, Telegram
Social media applications	These applications are used to spread the Good News widely from the city to the countryside. It is possible to communicate the Gospel in the format of videos, quotes, short devotionals, and testimonies [16]. The problem is	Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

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the lack of direct interaction. Direct interaction plays a vital role in discipleship. However, these forms can be carried out in a blended manner.

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These digital media can be optimally utilized in discipleship if the discipleship ministry departs from a digital mindset. Zaluchu explained that a mindset change is needed so that digital media in the era of disruption can be used appropriately in education, including education in the church.[18] In the technological disruption era, the available digital media can be used as a medium for discipleship, which makes it easier to carry out discipleship activities.

### 3.3 Discipleship Material Contents in the Disruption Era

In the era of technological disruption, there is a change in human behavior. In the age of Industrial Revolution 4.0, access to various media is open. Children can access various media both in a controlled and unsupervised manner. Therefore, relevant discipleship content is needed. This section presents proposed contents for discipleship materials in the era of technological disruption as follows (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Discipleship material contents

Topic	Description	References
Sin and salvation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs: Awareness of sin and knowledge of Jesus</li> <li>Contents: Forgiveness and grace in Jesus</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media: Video meetings, videos of testimony and teaching, messaging apps, social media, Bible apps for PCs and Android devices</li> </ul>	Ronda [6] Keriapy [19]
Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs: Understanding of healthy digital media use</li> <li>Contents: Christian values about healthy use of digital media and ways to become the Salt and Light amid technological disruptions</li> <li>Media: Video meetings, videos of testimony and teaching, messaging apps, social media, Bible apps for PCs and android</li> </ul>	Ronda [6] Arifianto & Santo [20] Arifianto, Triposa, & Supriyadi [21]
Doctrinal teachings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs: Understanding of God, the Bible, and digital church life</li> <li>Contents: Christian values about healthy use of digital media, relevance of the Bible to the lives of believers in the era of disruption, and virtual church life. Doctrinal teaching will provide a foundation for spiritual life and Gospel communication.</li> <li>Media: Video meetings, videos of testimony and teaching, messaging apps, social media, Bible apps for PCs and Android devices</li> </ul>	Budiono [22] Gea & Darmawan [23] Berutu & Siahaan [24] Darmawan & Objantoro [25] Afandi [26]
Spirituality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need: Understanding of a healthy spiritual life</li> <li>Contents: Christian spiritual life and disciplines, spirituality development in the family.</li> </ul>	Santosa [27] Diana [28] Boiliu & Polii [11] Arifianto, Triposa,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media: Video meetings, videos of testimony and teaching, messaging apps, social media, Bible apps for PCs and Android devices</li> </ul>	& Supriyadi [21]
Gospel communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need: Ability to communicate the Gospel with digital media</li> <li>Content: Skills to utilize digital media in preaching and teaching the Gospel.</li> </ul>	Diana [29] Octavianus [17] Camerling, Lauled & Eunike [30] Tanhidy [31]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media: Video meetings, videos of teaching and testimony, messaging apps, social media</li> </ul>	

The proposed discipleship contents in the era of disruption are still open for development according to the context of their uses. These contents also need to be contextualized according to the conditions and context of the users.

#### 4 Conclusion

The era of disruption not only poses challenges but provides opportunities. The disruption era, with its technological developments, generates great potential of technology, which provides digital media-based discipleship opportunities. In the age of technological disruption, people can use digital media for discipleship. Some digital media identified for these purposes are video meetings, teaching and testimony videos, Bible apps for PCs and Android devices, messaging applications, and social media. Discipleship in the era of disruption also needs quality content. Some contents include sin and salvation, ethics, doctrinal teaching, spirituality, and gospel communication.

This research contributes to knowledge in Discipleship, in particular, to provide insight into alternative ways for churches and all disciple-making ministers to do discipleship, which is no more limited by place and time, by utilizing the sophistication of technology in the disruption era. This research also provides clear explanations and examples of digital media usage that churches and practitioners can adapt to be applied practically.

#### 5 Acknowledgment

We want to thank Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Simpson Ungaran for providing the opportunity to carry out this research. Without the opportunities provided, our research would be challenging to carry out properly.

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