



# FAKE ID

## Discussion Guide

Welcome!

Thank you for downloading this discussion guide. Whether you're leading a book club, church group, or simply reading with friends, I'm grateful you've chosen to engage deeply with *Fake ID*.

The issues we face—AI's seductive power and identity ideology's coercive force—are too complex to navigate alone. This guide is designed to help you and your group wrestle with these challenges together, learning from one another as you seek truth with compassion.

My hope is that these questions will not only enhance your understanding of the book but spark meaningful conversations that extend far beyond your discussion time. May you find both clarity and community as you explore what it means to be human in an age of reality collapse.

With gratitude and hope,

**Abdu Murray**

### How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed for both formal and informal group discussions. Each chapter includes:

- Reality Check: Opening question to ground the discussion
- Core Questions: 3-4 essential discussion points
- Deeper Dive: For groups wanting more thorough exploration
- Practical Application: "What to Do About It" focused questions

Remember: Always strive for *compassionate truth-telling*: engaging difficult topics with grace

*Recommended group size: 4-12 people*

*Time per chapter: 45-60 minutes*



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### Prologue: Between Reality and Collapse

**Reality Check:** When was the last time you questioned whether something you saw or experienced—whether online or in real life—was actually real or true?

#### Core Questions:

1. Murray describes two “tsunamis” threatening reality: Bioclasm (identity ideology) and AI-Mania. Which one concerns you more personally, and why?
2. The author shares his personal background as a former Muslim, now Christian, of Arab descent. How might our own backgrounds affect how we perceive “reality collapse”?
3. What does “compassionate truth-telling” mean to you? Can you think of an example where truth without compassion caused harm, or compassion without truth enabled a problem?

#### Deeper Dive:

- Discuss the difference between coercion (Bioclasm) and seduction (AI-Mania) as methods of reality distortion. In what ways is each particularly dangerous?

#### Practical Application:

- Identify one area in your life where you might be experiencing “reality collapse.” What small step could you take this week to ground yourself in truth?



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### Chapter 1: Reality Collapse

**Reality Check:** Have you ever felt pressure to affirm something you believed to be false? How did you respond?

#### Core Questions:

1. The Star Trek example shows Captain Picard being tortured to see five lights when there are only four. What modern “five lights” are we being pressured to see in culture?
2. How do we engage with people across different “reality” divides without losing relationship?
3. What’s the difference between acknowledging someone’s genuine suffering (like gender dysphoria) and affirming all their beliefs about that suffering?

#### Deeper Dive:

- Murray introduces the term “Bioclasm” (breaking down biological categories). What sacred categories in our society are being “iconoclasted”?

#### Practical Application:

- How can you practice “epistemic humility” while still maintaining convictions about objective truth?



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### Chapter 2: The Sequake

**Reality Check:** What foundational belief in your life, if shaken, would feel like an earthquake?

#### Core Questions:

1. How do underwater earthquakes (seaquakes) serve as a metaphor for the unseen forces reshaping our cultural landscape?
2. What are the “tectonic plates” shifting beneath our society’s understanding of reality?
3. How do we recognize when we’re in the midst of a cultural seaquake versus normal societal change?

#### Deeper Dive:

- Discuss how gradual shifts in worldview can lead to sudden, dramatic changes in society.

#### Practical Application:

- Identify one “early warning sign” of reality collapse in your community. How might you respond constructively?



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### Chapter 3: Cultural Schizophrenia

**Reality Check:** Describe a time when you felt torn between two incompatible views of reality.

#### Core Questions:

1. Murray describes feeling his phone vibrate when it wasn't even touching him. What does this "phantom sensation" phenomenon reveal about our relationship with technology?
2. How does our culture simultaneously view humans as both mere machines and as gods? What are the consequences of this contradiction?
3. What is the danger of living with unresolved contradictions about human nature?

#### Deeper Dive:

- Explore how "cultural schizophrenia" affects mental health, especially among young people.

#### Practical Application:

- For one day, document moments when you're treated (or treat yourself) as either a machine or a god. What patterns emerge?



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### Chapter 4: From the Bottom Up - AI-Mania's Urge to Merge

**Reality Check:** If you could merge with technology to gain superhuman abilities, would you? Why or why not?

#### Core Questions:

1. Ray Kurzweil believes “God does not exist yet” but we’re evolving toward godhood. How does this technological spirituality differ from traditional religious views?
2. What human qualities would be lost in a merger with artificial intelligence?
3. How do we use technology as a tool without letting it reshape our identity?

#### Deeper Dive:

- Discuss transhumanism’s promise of transcending human limitations. What’s appealing about it? What’s concerning?

#### Practical Application:

- Identify one area where you’ve let technology shape your identity rather than serve as a tool. How can you reclaim agency?



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### Chapter 5: AI-Mania's Misguided Merger

**Reality Check:** What makes a relationship real? Can it exist with an AI?

#### Core Questions:

1. How do films like *Ex Machina* and *Her* warn us about human-AI relationships?
2. What's the difference between connection and genuine relationship?
3. How might AI relationships affect our ability to form human bonds?

#### Deeper Dive:

- Explore the ethics of creating AI that mimics human emotion and connection.

#### Practical Application:

- Practice a “connection audit”: Which of your daily interactions are with humans versus machines? What's the impact?



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### Chapter 6: AI-Mania's Failed Solution

**Reality Check:** What gives your life meaning that could never be replicated by an algorithm?

#### Core Questions:

1. Murray argues that AI-Mania offers “perpetual existence” but not meaningful life. What’s the difference?
2. How does the story of Job relate to our search for meaning in an AI age?
3. What do you think about the prospect of AI being used to create interactive avatars of loved ones we’ve lost? Would this help or hinder the grieving process?
4. If consciousness is just neurons firing, does anything really matter? How do you respond?

#### Deeper Dive:

- Research shows people who believe they lack free will become less moral. What does this tell us about the importance of our beliefs?

#### Practical Application:

- Identify one uniquely human activity you’ve been outsourcing to AI. Reclaim it this week.



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### Chapter 7: From the Top Down - Bioclassm's Psychological Sidestep

**Reality Check:** When have your feelings about yourself conflicted with biological reality?

#### Core Questions:

1. How does identity ideology attempt to sidestep physical reality?
2. What happens when subjective identity becomes the ultimate authority?
3. How do we show compassion for those struggling with identity while maintaining commitment to biological reality?

#### Deeper Dive:

- Discuss the findings of the Cass Review and what they reveal about youth gender medicine.

#### Practical Application:

- Practice having a conversation about identity that prioritizes both truth and compassion.



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### Chapter 8: Digital Eden

**Reality Check:** What “forbidden fruit” of technology are you most tempted by?

#### Core Questions:

1. How does the Eden narrative illuminate our relationship with AI and identity?
2. What do you think of Murray’s syllogism at the beginning of the chapter about the Bible having a divine source? How compelling is his argument that the Bible’s timeless wisdom suggests it has a timeless source?
3. What parallels exist between the serpent’s temptation and today’s technological promises?
4. How do we live wisely in our “digital Eden”?

#### Deeper Dive:

- Explore how the desire to “be like God” manifests in both AI-Mania and identity ideology.

#### Practical Application:

- What boundaries could help you resist the “forbidden fruit” you identified in the Reality Check for this chapter?



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### Chapter 9: AI-kido

**Reality Check:** How can we use the momentum of cultural forces to redirect them toward truth?

#### Core Questions:

1. What does “AI-kido” mean as a strategy for engaging with technology?
2. How can we redirect AI’s power toward human flourishing rather than replacement?
3. Murray argues that because human intelligence is required to create artificial intelligence, it’s likely that an intelligence far greater than ours was necessary to create human intelligence. How does this point to God’s existence? What do you think of this argument?
4. What would it look like to use technology’s own logic to reveal its limitations?

#### Deeper Dive:

- Discuss practical examples of using “cultural judo” to redirect harmful ideologies.

#### Practical Application:

- Practice one “AI-kido” move this week: Use technology to enhance rather than replace a human interaction.



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### Chapter 10: The Sextant

**Reality Check:** What unchangeable truth serves as your “North Star” in navigating life?

#### Core Questions:

1. How does being made “in God’s image” provide a fixed point for navigation?
2. Beyond being made in God’s image, what does it mean to be human? What other essential qualities define our humanity?
3. What does “incarnational humanism” mean for how we engage technology and identity questions?
4. How do we find solid ground when everything seems relative?

#### Deeper Dive:

- Murray lost his father to murder while writing this book. How does grief and loss ground us in reality?

#### Practical Application:

- Create a personal “Reality Charter” - fixed principles for navigating technology and identity challenges.



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### **Epilogue: Facts Care About Your Feelings After All**

**Reality Check:** How can facts and feelings work together rather than against each other?

#### **Core Questions:**

1. What does it mean that “facts care about your feelings”?
2. How do we honor both objective truth and subjective experience?
3. What gives you hope for recovering reality?

#### **Deeper Dive:**

- Discuss how the Christian worldview uniquely addresses both truth and compassion.

#### **Practical Application:**

- Commit to one ongoing practice that keeps you grounded in reality while remaining compassionate toward those who struggle.



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### Final Group Reflection

#### Creating Your Reality Sextant:

1. What fixed truths will guide your navigation?
2. Where do you need more courage to speak truth?
3. Where do you need more compassion in your truth-telling?
4. What practical steps will your group take together?

**Ongoing Commitment:** Consider meeting monthly to discuss how you're applying these principles and supporting each other through reality's challenges.

*“The antidote to reality collapse isn't found in rejecting technological progress or in dismissing the complexity of human identity. Rather, it's found in recovering a vision of humanity grounded in truth.”*

—Abdu Murray

