

# The Concurrently Companion



## Episode 32: Silicon Valley, psychedelics, and double standards

### Topic introduction

Today we're SOARing the article "Magic Mushrooms. LSD. Ketamine. The Drugs That Power Silicon Valley," by Kirsten Grind and Katherine Bindley of *The Wall Street Journal*.

### Discussion

Key terms: *drugs, psychedelics, microdosing, marijuana, psilocybin/magic mushrooms, LSD, ketamine, MDMA/ecstasy, culture-shaping, leadership*

### Examining the material with SOAR

Survey—What is this article about? What is the main subject being explored?

- » Practicing EQ: With what presuppositions did I come to the article? How did they color my perspective? What were my first impressions/feelings? What experiences color Kelsey and Jonathan's thinking and approach to this topic area? How does acknowledging these things help us engage with greater clarity and reason?
- » Knowing one another's past experience or presuppositions helps us approach a conversation with greater civility, respect, and curiosity towards one another. Can you explain why?

Observe—How is the story being told?

- » Use the "who, what, when, where, why, and how" of journalism. Sometimes these need to become complete sentences. Consider applying them differently than we did in the episode.
- » What is emphasized in the storytelling? What is diminished or left out? How do these journalists frame their story?
- » How soon did you have to begin pulling in *outside* resources from the article in order to understand the discussion? **Definitions:** What are the key terms (i.e. substances) and their meanings—what do the varied drugs do? What are the characteristics of psychedelics?
- » Name the stakeholders: Who are the key figures mentioned in the article and what are their occupations? What are their opinions regarding the topic? (What "stake" do they have in it?)
- » What does Kelsey mean when she uses the term "culture-shapers" and to whom is she referring?
- » **Circumstance/context:** Where do the specific phenomena covered by the article occur?
- » What is microdosing and macrodosing and how are they related according to the article?
- » What else do you notice?

Analyze—How is this article reported? Why is this topic important?

- » What is the difference between good journalism/reporting and editorializing?
- » Spend some time comparing and contrasting types of drugs on the wheel we attach in the show notes. What do you notice about the varied drugs and their impact on the human mind and body? Why do you think some are legal and some illicit? What informs your thinking?
- » What do you think Jonathan mean by “bro-iness” and “edgelording”? What do you think about these flavors/phenomena in corporate executives? What can you affirm and what can you challenge through a biblical lens?
- » **Relationship** (cause and effect): What are the other things we observe from history about drugs and substance use/abuse? What led us to where we are today? How might current thinking and action regarding drugs have an impact on the future?
- » What are trustworthy sources when we are seeking clear understanding of drugs and their effects on the human mind and body? What makes those sources trustworthy?
- » **Authority:** What is a biblical understanding of leadership, healing, obeying the law? Where do I find those themes in scripture? What other themes can we identify in the article and run through a biblical worldview?

Respond—What is a godly response to this area of culture?

- » Based on your answers to the last question in the analysis section, what does that mean explicitly regarding how the believer engages through godly action in the world?
- » How do we live in the tension of the “already but not yet”? What can we expect of the world and how do we fit our actions to those expectations?
- » Consider: leadership, civic duty, charitable service, prayer, the law, etc.

## Scriptural anchors/provision

Consider SOARing Psalm 90 and Psalm 78 in your Bible study this week.

---

Listen to **Concurrently: The News Coach Podcast** wherever you listen to podcasts.  
Email: [newscoach@wng.org](mailto:newscoach@wng.org) | Online: [concurrentlypodcast.com](http://concurrentlypodcast.com)