



Session 1

Big Idea:

How do Christians engage in politics in the public square?

GROUP OPENER

Discuss with the group why politics continues to be a divisive topic. Why does it have the ability to create such strong divisions and disagreements?

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Read 1 Peter 2:1-11 and Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What are some significant observations you have about this text? What stood out? What didn't you like? What was confusing?
- What does this passage teach us about God? How does it change how I see God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity/ourselves? How would it change how I treat others?
- What does this passage teach us about obedience? How should it affect the way I live?

July 14
WEEKEND

As a Group

Politics can be an easy place to put or hope for a better world. The preamble to our constitution acknowledges the desire the founding fathers had for a "more perfect union." This expression also contains an admittance that the perfect union had yet to be created. Politics speaks to our hearts because we all hold deep beliefs that if this thing or that thing was then we would live with a better peace with our world and others. Those beliefs about what the world should be like are deep within us and that is part of the reason it can create deep division.

Share with the group if politics is something that gets you excited to discuss with like-minded friends or if it is something you prefer to avoid discussing.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:6-21

Paul lays out that we are ambassadors of the kingdom of Jesus. How can this passage help give perspective as to our ultimate goal as we engage politically?

The sermon shared ways in which Christians should engage in politics.

Christians engage politics with...

- A strategic consciousness of our reputation
- A measured allegiance to human government
- A legal responsibility to love neighbor
- An unwavering belief in human dignity
- A realistic assessment of human depravity
- An uncompromising moral compass
- A fearless hope in the risen King Jesus

Which of these resonates the most with you?

Which of these is the most difficult for you?

ACTION STEPS

I will statement...

- Based on what God is teaching in this passage, what should I do? Reflect for a minute or two and develop an action statement. Put it in the form, "I Will _____". Make it concrete, simple, and achievable. Share your "I Will" statement with the group.