

Discussion Guide

Discussion Guides accompany the [weekly message](#).

Passage: John 17:20-24

Big Idea: Let us prioritize our identities in Christ over our political affiliations, especially during divisive times like election seasons.

Opening Activity:

- Ask each participant to think about one value, principle, or aspect of their faith that they deeply cherish (like love, integrity, unity, humility, or compassion). Ask them to write it down to share later.
- Next, have each person think of or write down some of the political or social issues that currently concern them or that are influencing their political views (like freedom, healthcare, economic stability, education, family, abortion, etc.).
- Then, go around and have each person share one of their responses from each category (faith value/political perspective).
- Ask the group to discuss how the values and concerns influence their political perspectives and vice versa.

Discussion Questions:

1. Unity vs. Uniformity

What does it mean to you that Jesus prayed for unity rather than uniformity? How can we apply this to our relationships with other believers who have different political views?

2. Living with Paradox

How do you navigate the paradox of being both a citizen of the Kingdom of God and a citizen under your government's rule? What challenges have you faced in balancing the two?

3. Fear and Division

What are some fears you encounter in today's political climate? How can these fears lead to division within the church? How can we overcome them?

4. Identifying as a Christ-Follower First

Are you more likely to identify yourself with a political party or as a Christ-follower first? How does your primary identity influence your interactions with others, especially during an election season?

5. Biblical Values and Voting

When considering candidates and policies, how do you align your decisions with biblical values? What issues do you prioritize, and why?

6. Government's Role in God's Plan

Romans 13 states that all authority comes from God. How do you reconcile this with political leaders you disagree with? How do you see God working through imperfect leaders?

7. Prayer as a Political Act

How does praying for your leaders, regardless of your political preferences, impact your heart and attitude toward them? How can we make prayer a more central part of our political engagement?

8. Choosing Unity Over Division

In situations of political disagreement, how can you pour "water" rather than "fire"? What practical steps can you take to foster unity rather than division?

9. Examining Policies Over People

What does it look like for you to research policies rather than focusing solely on the candidates? How might this change the way you approach political discussions?

10. The Role of the Church in Politics

Do you believe the church should speak into political issues? Why or why not? How can we engage politically without compromising our primary mission to spread the gospel?

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You that we have government representatives who believe Your truth. Remind them to seek Your guidance as they make decisions that affect our country and world. Send them godly wisdom and good counselors. And give election candidates the strength to choose integrity in both their campaigns and their terms in office. Amen.

