

FAITH, FEAR, AND ★ POLITICS

WEEK ONE

Christians, Culture and How We Got Here

MAIN IDEA

The Church will never be able to fly if we don't use both wings.

STARTER

Each week will include a "would you rather" ice-breaker that is related to the upcoming topic, this is optional - if you are ready to talk, dive into the first question.

Would you rather go to a church that emphasizes the importance of following Jesus and occasionally helps the poor or a church that takes care of the poor and the needy **regularly** and occasionally talks about following Jesus?

SCRIPTURE EMPHASIS

For this week, let's start off reading some passages that show the importance of telling people about Jesus as well as the importance of taking care of people's needs. Give each person a verse to read and listen to how the truth of Jesus embraces both the right and the left wing of the church.

- Rom 10:14-15
- 1 John 3:16-18
- Matt 28: 18-20
- James 2:15-17
- Matt 25:35-40
- 1 Peter 3:15

UNPACKING WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT . . .

- What was your church experience growing up?
 - If you had to put your finger on it, what would you say best fits the way you think about politics . . .
 - I have no interest in it.
 - I have some interest, but I don't want all the drama.
 - I love talking about it and I am open to new ideas.
 - I have my own ideas and have problems with seeing other points of view.
 - Other (insert your thoughts here)
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- Look at John 17:20-23 - read it together as a group and dig into the question below
 - From what you see in the church, have we been the answer to Jesus' prayer for unity?
 - Is the way that I conduct myself helping or hindering the realization of that prayer in the church?
 - Whether inside or outside the church, we need to love people and love starts with getting to know people. - Are you open to getting to know someone who thinks differently than you?

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

Spend time with at least one person who has a much different idea about culture or politics than you. Make an effort to understand them and don't try to argue or convince them of your point of view. Just seek to understand.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Tim Keller has a great sermon about this subject

<https://podcast.gospelinlife.com/e/jesus-and-politics/>

Arthur C. Brooks and Simon Sinek: "Loving Your Enemies" Conversation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2aFxFNYF-RU>