

# FAITH, FEAR, AND ★ POLITICS

## FACILITATOR GUIDE

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First of all, THANK YOU for taking time and using your gifts to help others explore what it looks like to follow Jesus. We know that in our current climate, topics like politics and culture can be challenging things to discuss - which is why we need this study! To that end, we want to provide you, the facilitator, with some helpful tips and tricks to leading this study well!

### HOW TO PREPARE.

#### **First: You don't have to be an expert.**

You're not leading the group because of your vast biblical knowledge or your understanding of politics and culture. You're leading because you love Jesus, care about people, and want us all to grow in our relationship with Jesus as it relates to this topic. For each week of the study, we've provided a video discussion, and a guide with scriptures and questions to help you facilitate continuing the conversation as a group. We've given you the tools, all you need to do is use them.

#### **Second: Spend time in prayer.**

This can be a tricky subject to walk through. We need to be having these conversations, but we need to do it prayerfully. Pray that God can work through your group. Spend some time praying and asking God to:

- Prepare the hearts and minds of the people who will be attending the group.
- Give everyone a unified spirit.
- Help us learn how to best follow **Jesus** in this season.
- Give you as the facilitator wisdom.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to move in our hearts.
- Help us all hear what God wants us to hear.

#### **Let God lead.**

This series about politics and culture might make it tempting to include your personal political or cultural views. Be honest with God and confess where you are tempted to take the lead. As you prepare, give the lead over to Him. Tell Him that you want His ideas and agenda to take center stage in the hearts and minds of your group. Be open and willing to learn alongside of your group members.

## HOW TO START THE FIRST SESSION.

### Here is a suggestion for opening your time together:

*Hey everyone! I'm so glad we're doing this study together and my hope is that it's valuable to all of us and helps us all focus more on Jesus in this season. That's the whole goal of this study. Not to take one side or the other, or to argue the finer points of specific issues. We want to learn how to talk and engage in issues like Jesus did..*

*Not everyone in this group shares the same political convictions and that's a good thing! Just keep in mind that the focus of this study isn't to convince each other to change political views, but to focus on the thing we all have in common, and that's following Jesus first and foremost. I'd like to read Galatians 5:22-23 as a way to set our "ground rules" for our conversations.*

- *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

*We're going to do our best to live out these characteristics as we walk through the next five weeks together!*

*If you're here and you haven't decided to trust Jesus yet, we're glad you're here! Hopefully our conversation and the topics we talk about will give you a better idea of who Jesus is, and how he calls his followers to engage and behave. We simply just ask that you also engage in a way that is respectful, kind and shows patience with the others in this group as we explore these things together.*

*Now with all that said, let's dive into week one...*

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**You've got this!** We believe God is going to use you, this study and the Holy Spirit to make a real difference in the lives of the people in your group, and maybe even the world around us as a result. He's done it before, he'll do it again, and we're so glad you've chosen to be a part of it!

Your **Group Leader Toolbox** is a great place to find videos with general tips and tricks for leading groups well, including:

- Handling Tense Conversations
- How to Get People to Start and Stop Talking
- Guiding People Well (in Orientation review section)

You're not alone! As you lead, if you have any questions, or run into any situations you'd like some additional advice with, feel free to email John Wilkinson ([johnwilkinson@lcbcchurch.com](mailto:johnwilkinson@lcbcchurch.com)) or Jason Keener ([jasonkeener@lcbcchurch.com](mailto:jasonkeener@lcbcchurch.com)). We're here to help you succeed however we can!