

THE **crossing** **small groups**

WWJV: Who Would Jesus Vote For? | John 13:35 Sermon Discussion Participant's Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To change how we think and talk about politics so that during this polarized political season, Jesus and his kingdom will be the ultimate winner.

Icebreaker: What did your upbringing look like in terms of politics? Was politics something often or little discussed? Did your family have strong political opinions or not so much?

Discussion:

1. Read John 13:34-35 and John 17:20-23 out loud. According to Jesus, how will the world know that we are his disciples and that he is the Messiah sent from God?

John 13:34-35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 17:20-23

I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

2. One of the candidates will win the election on November 3rd, but according to these passages, what will it look like practically for Jesus and his kingdom to win in our community during this election season? In other words, how Christians act, speak, interact with friends and neighbors, and handle themselves on social media both before and after this election will make people either more or less likely to want to follow Jesus. What are some loving, unity-maintaining ways of relating to each other that we can practice?
3. What are some mistakes and pitfalls that you personally need to be careful to avoid during this election season?
4. Two genuine Jesus-loving, Bible-believing Christians can hold different political convictions and affiliations. How can this be true?

5. Describe a situation in which your perspective on a political issue was shaped or changed because of your upbringing or some personal experience you had. (E.g. You worked in housing projects and now want more government assistance. You watched a video about abortion and want to support pro-life laws.)

6. How do we know if we might be more loyal to a political party or candidate than to Jesus? Read these possible signs out loud together and discuss. Do you think these signs could be good indicators? Are any of them convicting to you personally?
 - 1) You think it's obvious that every genuine Christian should agree politically with you. You have a hard time understanding how a Christian could vote for your political opponent.
 - 2) You've could never see yourself voting for a person in the other party.
 - 3) You'd rather your child marry a non-Christian of your political party than a Christian of the other party.
 - 4) You'd rather try to win a political argument than win someone to Jesus.
 - 5) You get more excited about your party or candidate winning an election than you do about your church growing by people coming to faith.
 - 6) You are able to recall the names of presidential candidates but can't remember the names of the disciples or the beatitudes in Jesus' sermon on the mount (Matthew 5:1-12).
 - 7) You will act or speak in unloving or disrespectful ways towards others in an effort to try to be loyal to your party or win an argument.

7. **Digging Deeper:** Although we should never make politics into an idol (as just described), the biblical view is that Christians should care about politics and participate in the political process for the good (see passages like Genesis 1:28, Jeremiah 29:4-7, etc.). How can we be involved in politics and at the same time remember to keep Jesus and his kingdom first in our hearts and minds?

8. What are some ways that Jesus' kingdom is better and more worthy of your loyalty than any earthly country or political party?

Sharing and Prayer:

Take some time as a group to pray confessing the ways we often put politics before King Jesus. Also pray for all the Christians and churches in our community to show the world that we are his disciples and that Jesus is the Messiah through being known for our love, respect, and unity. Pray that the mid-Missouri will notice and want to know more about Jesus.