

# The Gospel Changes Everything *Small Group Discussion*

## **FOUR POLITICS (AND OTHER IDOLS)**

### **DISCUSSION OVERVIEW**

Discuss and reflect on the ways our faith is challenged and influences our political views and other idols.

### **SERIES OVERVIEW**

Why have so many efforts to change our world proven ineffective, or even destructive? What does it mean to be a faithful presence of Christ in this world? This series will explore how the church can play a role in affecting positive change. The gospel, rather than politics or worldly power or wealth or social media or reclusiveness, changes everything.

### **POSSIBLE FURTHER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What does scripture say?
- What does culture say?
- Which voices are speaking to you too quietly or too loudly?
- Where does Christ come into play / redeem this?
- How is this issue helping or hindering human flourishing?
- Where is the hope misplaced here?
- How can you lean into gospel power vs. weight of this issue?
- How does this affect our small group?
- How can you be a faithful presence in your life?

### **LOOK** *What do we see around us and in our lives?*

**When you were growing up, what do you remember hearing/talking about with your parents regarding politics?**

**What is your current comfort level discussing politics with others?**

**Would you ever consider running for an elected position?**

*Leaders note: Politics could possibly be a tough, good, fiery conversation. The answers you hear in the above questions should give you an insight into each individual's comfort level and hopefully allow you to set the tone for some great, challenging conversations, remembering we're united in Christ.*

### **BOOK** *What does Scripture say about this?*

#### **2 Samuel 7:16**

<sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.

#### **John 19:36**

<sup>36</sup>Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

#### **Revelation 11:15**

<sup>15</sup>"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever."

### **What do we know about God's kingdom and rule?**

*Possible answers: it's forever, it's not this world, our citizenship is in heaven too (Philippians 3:20).*

### **How does this influence our view of politics?**

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**How does this passage/discussion fit into the story of the Gospel?**

**Story of the Good News of Jesus.**

## **Creation**

*God makes all things and they are good*

## **Fall**

*God's people turn away from God, things are broken. Death and sin rule over all things.*

## **Redemption**

*God, through Jesus' death and resurrection, rescues his people and defeats death and sin.*

## **Restoration**

*Jesus returns to be with his people, end all brokenness, and make all things right.*

## **THE GOSPEL** *The Good News of Jesus*

**How have we put politics in place of the gospel?**

*Possible answers: I try to find hope, purpose, acceptance, etc. through politics/hopes for future. The gospel is enough.*

**In what ways have we seen society's view of the gospel change, due to political views/politicians?**

*Possible answers: It hasn't; it's been misrepresented; it has opened conversations with some friends...*

**How is your political engagement helping your faith life? Are there ways your involvement is hindering your spiritual growth?**

## **Accountability/Reflection**

*Share together and pray for each other*

**TOOK** *What will you take away from today's discussion?*

*Possible questions to consider:*

**Consider what God is telling you stop, start, change, or continue.**

**What part of the gospel do you forget and need to remember this week?**

**Who do you know who needs to know the truth you discussed today?**