

SOC&H week one

These questions are for your growth and to prepare for the conversation in your Growth Group. We encourage you to read through them, spend some time thinking about your responses and write down anything that could aid in your Group. We also encourage you dig deeper, research, look for supporting Scriptures, etc. We are excited for your growth relationally and spiritual. **We recommend the Bible versions of - ESV, NTL, NIV, NASB and The Message.

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Series Overview: Politics make people crazy. You've seen it recently—once level-headed people, turning their backs on life-long friendships & family members, and spiritual communities. People that have known & lived next to & served alongside each other for years aren't on speaking terms, block each other on social media, and won't even look each other in the eye at the grocery store. And all of us are wondering—What's next? Regardless of who wins this election: Where do we go from here? How do we survive the election with your soul intact. The message of Jesus has something significant & surprising to say about all of this. And we believe if we latch onto it, it just might change everything—for the better.

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//TALK

Ice Breaker - Would you rather talk like Yoda or breathe like Darth Vader?

Q1 – Can you recall a time when you learned that someone you like being around didn't think/believe/vote like you?

Q2 – Why do you think politics tend to become so divisive? Do you believe it has to do with opinion, fear, immaturity or something else?

Q3 – Read **John 17:9-11, 20-21** [Read in different translations] What stands out to you in these verses? How significant do you believe it is that this was Jesus' final prayer for his followers before going to the cross?

Q4 – In the message the question was asked “**Can Christians disagree with one another politically and still love each other unconditionally?**” What do you think?

Q5 – Read **John 13:34-35** [Read in different translations] What is the purpose of “loving each other just as much as Jesus loves you”? If you understand the purpose of loving others, does it make it easier or more difficult?

Q6 – How can you decided to prioritize what Jesus prayed for over what your party stands for? How can you love somebody that you disagree with politically?

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//GO DEEPER

Check out some more: Read John 17. Take a look at the book “Thou Shalt Not Be A JERK” by Eugene Cho.

//THE POINT

Prioritize what Jesus prayed for over what your party stands for.

//MEMORIZE

John 13:35 TPT - 35 For when you demonstrate the same love I have for you by loving one another, everyone will know that you're my true followers.

//PRAY

Take time to pray for the needs in your group. Pray for our church and our church leaders. Pray for the health of our church and our community. Pray for this volatile political season and pray for unity amongst believers.