

Ice Breaker

 (in groups of 2 or 3 for larger groups)

Name a political figure from History that you admire, and why you admire them.

Talk About it!

Part 1

Discuss:

Pastor John shared several circles of his own identity and ideals with a venn diagram representing the circles he's bringing to this upcoming election. What are some of the circles in your venn diagram of identity that you bring to this moment?

Part 2

Romans 13:1 NIV

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Discuss:

- A. What would it look like to abdicate your civic responsibility?
- B. What are some healthy and positive ways to activate your engagement in the political process?

Part 3

Romans 13:1–2 NIV

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

Discuss:

From a high-level view, what comes to your mind when you think Biblically about what is going on politically?

Part 4

Philippians 3:18–21 NIV

18 For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Discuss:

- A. As a Christian, should Biblical input on topics such as abortion, gender & sexuality, & treatment of foreigners affect your election decision?
- B. What would it look like to go beyond the surface-level thinking on these matters?

Part 5

Romans 13:3–5 NIV

3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. 4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

Discuss:

- A. What should you do when you see character flaws in the candidates for office?
- B. How does that affect your choice?

Part 6

Romans 13:6–7 NIV

6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

John 13:34–35 NIV

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Discuss:

- A. Why does it matter that you elevate compassion for people with different conclusions on political matters?