



Lake Forest Church Sermon Discussions

Series: Citizen

Part 1

Introduce It:

As a group, talking about “Politics and Faith” can get ugly if we let it and your community group is not the place for political stances to be taken. So, as your group begins this discussion, pray as a group that God would allow you to hear each other’s thoughts and talk as people that realize each loves the Lord.

This series is focused on being a citizen and realizing that our citizenship first and foremost lies within the Kingdom of God and not of this earth. But we are citizens on earth as well and we need to play those roles in a manner that is affected by our citizenship in heaven. So, we will ask the question, “What does it mean to trust God over man and allow that trust to affect our citizenship here on earth?”

Share with the group Presidents that you thought have done a good job leading our country and Presidents that have not and tell the group why you think this. No one in the group is allowed to say if the person sharing is right or wrong but must hear their sharing as their own opinions. Now, as a group, come up with a description of “the perfect President” that everyone in the group would vote for. This will take some discussion but try to narrow it to about 5 qualities.

Study It:

Read 1 Samuel 8

Samuel and his sons were the last “Judges” that God sent to Israel before Israel starting being led by kings. What is the difference between a “Judge” and a “king”?

In reading the passage, what are all the reasons the people want a King and how long do you think they have wanted one?

Because Samuel has been a judge for the Israelites, who has been the king of Israel and what are the Israelites ultimately saying by wanting a different king?

Basically, this is one of the first elections for Israel. The people are voting and God tells Samuel to give the people what they are voting for. Describe what God says they will get from a king.

Why will this king take these things from the people and in what ways has God being king not done this?

Ultimately the issue of this passage is that the people of God (the Israelites) want a man to lead them and not God. They have put all their hope in a man. What is the difference between having a King as a country and having a President? What is the same?

God gives the people what they want. What do you want in a president? In what ways does this passage challenge where you have put your hope for our country?

After reading and studying this passage, it can seem as if we should not have a President and we should not vote because in doing so that means we are saying we don't want God to be king. BUT, how does the history of Israel's leadership since coming out of Egypt and the first 3 verses of this passage speak counter to that thinking?

For those that have chosen to follow Jesus, our King is God. In what practical ways will can keep the perspective during this political season that God is King and yet be a voice of the people that votes for leadership that will honor the ways of God?

USE IT:

As you prepare to live as a citizen of this country, we want to encourage you to use the following guide* as you prepare to vote (and we encourage each of you to vote!).

Get away from the confrontational demonstrations to think before you vote.

Overlook a narrow religious perspective and look at a broad perspective.

Observe deep principles/convictions rather than shallow politics.

Decide from prayer and scriptural principles on each office (not just President).

Act! Go vote!

Talk to others to learn a full perspective and encourage understanding.

**Adapted from the book, "A New Kind of Conservative." Joel Hunter*

End your time together by praying for our nation and asking God to reveal ways in your own heart that you are not allowing him to be King.