



Discussion Guide
Your Kingdom Come – Part 2
LEADER GUIDE

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Hey leaders! We concluded our series leading us into the election! Amid a divided political landscape, "Your Kingdom Come" challenges us to fully live out the values of His Kingdom, exploring how Jesus guides us to reflect God's love, pursue justice, and embody the gospel beyond the realm of earthly politics.

Next week, we'll begin a NEW series called "Anxious For Nothing". In a world filled with uncertainty, God invites us to release our anxiety to Him. In Philippians 4:6-9, we'll see how prayer and gratitude replaces our fears with a peace that surpasses all understanding. This series will encourage us to confront insecurities, share struggles, and experience the life-giving rest that comes when we trust God with our worries.

Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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"Meekness is power harnessed by love. It is an expression of humility that will not bristle or defend when challenged about motives."

[Dave Harvey]

LEADER RESOURCES || Leader Note *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!*

- **Passage Summary**
 - Paul uses remarkably political language to both subordinate Rome to Jesus' Kingdom and to clarify that Christ followers are enlisted into the service of the true King. This life is to be lived in the present as we await the future appearance of the King.
- **1 Timothy 6 Commentary & Christian Interaction With Politics**
 - Use this commentary and resource for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share before and/or after you gather.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || Leader Note *The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.*

Who is one of the most humble people you personally know? What makes them so different from the people around them with regards to humility?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || Leader Note *Begin your time together by thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, beginning in a posture of humility and dependence!*

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

"He leads the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. All the Lord's ways show faithful love and truth to those who keep his covenant and decrees."

[Psalm 25:9-10]

BIG IDEA || Leader Note *Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today's reading and discussion.*

Christian politics ("life in the public sphere") is part of discipleship in God's Kingdom. How we "politic" MUST integrate our confession that Jesus is Lord with loving our neighbors and being gentle to them.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note *Have people read aloud the passage as instructed. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage multiple people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!*

Have someone read aloud 1 Timothy 6:11-16. Consider having another person read it aloud again, possibly in a different translation.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR THIS WEEK *There will be many different emotions and thoughts about the election, especially for groups meeting after Tuesday. As you facilitate the discussion, do your best to keep the conversation focused on the actual questions, not personal beliefs and opinions. If someone goes off topic too much, you might say something like this: "I appreciate how passionate and/or thoughtful you are about this. Let's talk more about that after our group's discussion so we can stay focused." It might even be helpful to encourage the group to stay focused on the questions BEFORE you begin. We're praying for you!!!*

1. What does Paul mean by "pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness"? How should these virtues reflect a disciple's walk and life? *Paul is urging Timothy to cultivate a life grounded in God's values. These virtues mark a life set apart for God, where discipleship is defined by personal transformation. By pursuing these qualities, believers reflect Christ's character and counter the surrounding world's values.*
2. Why does Paul describe the Christian life as a "good fight"? How might this differ from how we often view our faith journey? *Paul uses "good fight" to emphasize the challenges of living a godly life in a fallen world. It's not a battle for control but a call to persist and remain faithful against opposition, temptation, and inner struggles, requiring discipline and resilience.*
3. If discipleship includes our approach to politics, what does it mean to prioritize our "Kingdom citizenship" over earthly affiliations? *Prioritizing Kingdom citizenship means that believers first seek to reflect Christ's values rather than aligning fully with any earthly political ideology. This often requires balancing respect for authority with a commitment to live out Gospel principles.*
4. In the sermon we heard, "Doing politics as Jesus' disciple is NOT first about our stance on certain issues or how we vote, but rather about what TYPE of people we are." How does this challenge the way you "do politics"? How does it encourage you? *Here are two helpful thoughts: 1) We don't start at the issues and work down, but we start from the foundation of the Gospel and our discipleship to Jesus. 2) We are to reject the belief that "politics" is our savior and silver bullet for fixing this world.*
5. What role does "gentleness" play in Christian witness, especially in divisive contexts? How might this impact our interactions within our community and church family? *Gentleness helps to communicate respect and compassion, fostering unity and understanding. In divisive situations, a gentle spirit enables us to discuss even hard truths with love, making others more receptive to the Gospel message.*
6. Reflect on the concept of "faith as a good fight". How does this perspective shape how we support each other in the journey of faith? *Viewing faith as a fight highlights the need for community and accountability. In a small group, this perspective calls for intentional support, encouragement, and prayer, recognizing that each member faces struggles that require perseverance.*

7. In the sermon we heard, *“When we lose confidence in God and His sufficiency, we take matters into our own hands and we make poor witnesses to the King of Kings.”* How is God inviting you to greater trust and obedience when it comes to “doing politics” and the way you view the outcomes of elections? *This is a good opportunity to go first!*
8. What is one step you could take this week to better “pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness”? *Steps might include setting aside time for daily prayer, choosing to respond with patience in difficult situations, or engaging in acts of service. Practical commitment fosters growth in these virtues.*
9. In what areas might you be “fighting the good fight of the faith” alone rather than relying on God’s provision and the support of your faith community? *Answers will vary: many Christians struggle with independence, trying to handle life’s battles solo. Recognizing areas where we need God and community support encourages humility and fosters relational growth within the church.*
10. *Have someone read aloud v. 15-16 again.* Reflecting on this, how can focusing on God’s greatness and sovereignty help us trust Him more fully with our lives, including with the outcome of this election? *Recognizing God’s absolute power and goodness reassures us that He is both willing and able to care for us. Reflecting on His majesty can deepen our faith, shifting our focus from personal limitations to His limitless nature.*

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

N.T. Wright says this: *“We live in the present in a way that will make sense in God’s promised future because that future has arrived in Jesus of Nazareth and the Spirit-filled Church He is building.”* That means we can live with absolute confidence in God, His truth, and our future!

Because of this confidence, God invites us to this → **faithfully be the church, which is the greatest political expression we can offer to a world desperate for the hope we have in Jesus!** Based on the Holy Spirit’s wisdom, what is a step of obedience that you can take this week?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note *We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5-10 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray together. You can pray for one another as well as the prompts below!*

Living Our Faith Out Loud

- Let’s reflect on what it means to live out our faith publicly as followers of Jesus. As citizens of God’s Kingdom, we’re called to engage with the world around us—including politics—in a way that reflects our confession that Jesus is Lord. Our words and actions should carry the mark of Christ’s love and gentleness, and above all, should seek the good of our neighbors.
- As we pray together, let’s invite the Holy Spirit to guide us in our conversations, our decisions, and our influence in the world. Let’s ask for hearts that are gentle and loving, even in disagreement, and courage to stand for truth and justice in ways that bring honor to Jesus.

PRAYER FOR ELECTION || Leader Note We wanted to provide a short prayer to encourage one another in this election season. If you find it helpful, pray it together or share it with your group after you gather.

We can **confidently rest and rejoice** in the sovereignty of God! Here is a prayer that reminds us: 1) The Church is to be engaged, but not consumed with politics. 2) Voting is an honor, a privilege, and a way of doing good. 3) Voting is a matter of conscience, not a marker of salvation or unity.

Gracious Father,

We stand in the midst of uncertainty and confusion, humbly seeking your guidance and wisdom. At the crossroads of democracy, grant us clarity and discernment. We're wading through a sea of promises and policies, and the truth seems elusive and opaque. Illuminate our hearts with your truth so that we may see beyond the veil of rhetoric.

Help us to see the humanity in each candidate, and the potential for good in every choice. Our desire is not to vote out of fear or self-interest, but with a spirit of justice, empathy, and hope, knowing that you already hold the answer, just as you hold all of creation in your hands.

Guide us, Lord, in the path of righteousness and righteousness alone, so that our voice in this election may be an instrument of Your peace, and our actions a reflection of Your love. Amen.

(Adapted from Faith Co/Op's "The Posture of Our Politics" Prayer Guide)