

# Discussion Guide Your Kingdom Come — Part 2 PARTICIPANT GUIDE

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

[Dave Harvey]

## **ENGAGE & CONNECT**

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**

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**

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**

# 1 Timothy 6:11-16

- 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?
- 2. Why does Paul describe the Christian life as a "good fight"? How might this differ from how we often view our faith journey?
- 3. If discipleship includes our approach to politics, what does it mean to prioritize our "Kingdom citizenship" over earthly affiliations?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?

- 8. What is one step you could take this week to better "pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness"?
- 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?
- 10. Reflecting on v.15-16 again, 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?

## STEP OF OBEDIENCE

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?

#### **PRAYER FOCUS**

## **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

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)