



## *The* INTERSECTION *of* RELIGION & POLITICS

# Small Group Study Guide

October 25, 2020  
"Listen and Learn"

### OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the great commandment – to love others, as you have loved us. Forgive us when we get this wrong. We all tend to like being right and it's hard to accept that good people can reach different conclusions. So would you help us listen to people who experience the world different than we do. Would you help us learn from them as well? And help us to put people first, and politics second. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

#### **1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under **Christ's law**), so as to win those not having the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

#### **Galatians 6:2 (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup> Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will **fulfill the law of Christ**.

## INTRODUCTION

Our political views are shaped by a number of variables: our backgrounds, education, and personal experiences to name a few. It's easy to feel like our view is the right one, but the person beside you is more precious to God than your political view.

When it comes to navigating politics in our relationships, these following steps will help:

- Listen to people who don't experience the world the way you do.
- Learn from others by being a student instead of a critic.
- Love people enough to not burn a relational bridge over a political view.

## QUESTIONS

- 1) When you're with family, do you discuss politics or avoid it? Would you like that to change one way or the other? Why?
- 2) Read I Corinthians 9:19-23 on page 1 where Paul talks about his method of influence. What stands out to you? How would you rate yourself in trying to empathize with and understand someone else's mindset?
- 3) Read Galatians 6:2 on page 1 where Paul summarizes how we can practically fulfill the law of Christ. What stands out to you? How can we all follow the law of Christ but still disagree politically? Do you generally trust that someone who votes differently than you has an informed conscience?
- 4) Many times our cultural contexts determine our political perspectives. As Rufus Miles said, "Where you stand depends on where you sit." How does that thought resonate with you? Do you really feel you would think different politically if you had a different set of past and current experiences?
- 5) What tempts you to feel contempt for candidates or people you know who see political issues differently than you do? How would campaign ads and personal conversations change if we all lived by Jesus' standard?

## FINAL APPLICATION

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, I like being right. It's hard to accept that good people can reach different conclusions. Keep teaching me how, in your spirit, to live at peace with all people. Amen.