

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

July 3, 2022

“One Nation Under God”

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God we are so thankful for the freedoms we have in the United States. We are also thankful for the laws that help govern our nation. But we know that no law can inspire morals and virtue in us. Would you help us understand how to use our personal freedoms to honor you? We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Galatians 5:13-15 (NIV)

¹³You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other..”

Philippians 2:14-15 (NIV)

¹⁴Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

July 3, 2022

“One Nation Under God”

INTRODUCTION

Red or Blue. Left or Right. For or Against. It sometimes feels like the United States isn't very united. There's something we can do about that, and it has less to do with our rights and more to do with our responsibility.

Individual rights assume individual responsibility. We are a nation of laws, but we can do better. We as Christians are commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to do unto others as God, through Christ, has done unto us. Leveraging our individual rights for the benefit of others will prevent our liberty from devouring itself.

QUESTIONS

1. Let's start off with some trivia!
 - What U.S. document includes the Bill of Rights?
 - Which founding father wrote the Bill of Rights?
 - In what year did the U.S. approve the Bill of Rights?
2. If someone were to read your texts and social media posts over the last three months, which one of these would they say best describes you? Why would they say that? If not one of these, what is a better word?

Divisive | Inclusive | Outspoken | Passive | Polite | Rude | Uninvolved

3. Read Galatians 5:13–15 on page 1. What stands out to you? Does any part of the passage remind you of the current climate in our culture? If so, how?
4. Which of these three statements resonates with you most? Why?
 - Do what's just, not what you can justify.
 - Do what's responsible, not what's permissible.
 - Do what's moral, not what's modeled.
5. Read Philippians 2:14–15 on page 1. What stands out to you? What is one way you need to apply the principle in this passage?

FINAL APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this week to leverage your freedom for the benefit of someone else? What can this group do to help?