



**What
Would
Jesus
Say?**

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 1 *January 8, 2023*
“...to our Divided Nation?”



OPENING PRAYER *The Prayer of St. Francis*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

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INTRODUCTION

In almost every poll or survey, Millennials and Gen Z participants list our divided nation as one of their top concerns for our nation’s future. It’s not hard to see how divided our nation is in politics, families, and even the church. So what does Jesus have to say about our divided nation? And how can we work across generational lines to fix it?

In the gospels, Jesus always did what is best for people. If we want to fix our polarized nation, Christians need to set the example. Instead of condemning people with our words, we should become students, not critics. Having a civil conversation and looking for common ground can go a long way to building bridges instead of tearing them down. Imagine what our world would look like if everyone loved like Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. What generation are you? (Baby Boomer, Gen X, Millennial, Gen Z, etc.) How do you feel about the Millennial and Gen Z generations?
2. Do politics play a role in your family’s mealtime conversations during Thanksgiving and Christmas? If so, do you tend to join the debate or withdraw from it? Why do you respond the way you do?
3. Talk about a time when you jeopardized a relationship with someone in order to make a point. Did you change that person’s opinion?
4. During the message, Pastor Eric said, “Jesus followers should be the most confident, curious, composed, compassionate people in the room.” How do you think a confident, curious, composed, and compassionate person would respond to people who disagree with him or her?
5. Author Phillip Yancey said, “The issue is not whether I agree with someone but rather how I treat someone with whom I profoundly disagree. We Christians are called to use the ‘weapons of grace,’ which means treating even our opponents with love and respect.” How can you share your faith with non-religious and nominally religious people without condemning them?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week have a conversation with someone who has a different political viewpoint than you.