



5-27-18 Sermon Discussion Guide

“Salty Faith: Politics and Faith”



Context

We continue our spring sermon series entitled “Salty Faith.” It asks the question, “What difference does following Jesus make in our lives?” This is a big question with big implications. It can make all the difference in the world. In the coming weeks, we’ll explore many facets of this question and take a more specific look at how this question impacts us. This week we discuss the intersection between faith and politics. How does our faith in Jesus impact our political action and choices?

Checking In

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

Introduction

If you had to define forgiveness, what would you say? More than simply telling someone, “I forgive you,” what does forgiving another actually mean for how one lives their life?

Discussing the Texts – Romans 13:1-7, Philippians 2:9-11, 1 Peter 2:11-12

1. What do you think Paul means when he says in verse 1 to be “subject to the government?” Do you believe he wants Christians to always do what their government tells them to do?
2. Philippians 2: 9-11 says that every knee will bow to Jesus and every tongue shall confess that he is Lord. How do you think the political leaders of Paul’s day would have taken a passage like this? Would it have sounded treasonous or simply personal and private?
3. What does it mean for us to confess Jesus as Lord?
4. Peter says in 1 Peter 2:11-12 that we are foreigners and exiles. What do you think he means by this? How have you felt like a foreigner because of your faith?
5. According to these passages how do you strike the balance between following your political authorities and knowing when to resist?

So what?

1. What does it mean to be political to you? How does your faith in Jesus impact your views on politics?
2. How can you be more politically engaged with your faith on a local and/or a national level?
3. How can you be sure that you are letting your faith in Jesus impact your political views instead of the other way around? How can you keep this check?
4. What might it look like to submit to the authorities while choosing not to obey them?
5. How does this passage give you hope?
6. How does this passage challenge you?
7. How can you apply this passage to your life this week?

Prayer

Have the group share any prayer requests or prayers of thanksgiving they may have. Then invite the group to pray for our country this week, its leaders, those who sacrifice to defend it, and those who are suffering within it.