



# CLEAR THE AIR Biblical Guidelines for the Church and the Christian for National Elections

**STUDY GUIDE** 

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#### **WELCOME:**

# Fixing Our Focus

#### Suggested icebreaker:

Ask each GG member to share with the group who they are planning to vote for in the presidential election and the reasons why they are voting for that candidate. They are to say only positive things about the candidate of their choice; nothing negative about the other candidates.

#### **WORSHIP:**

Adoring
Our God

#### Suggested songs:

- Be Thou My Vision
- O God Our Help in Ages Past

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#### **WORD & WALK:**

#### **Understanding & Applying the Word**

#### **LESSON AIM**

- GG members will maintain their Christian testimony when engaging in political conversation/activities.
- 2. GG members will act in godly love toward others who have different opinions.
- 3. GG members will select leaders using biblical principles.

#### INTRODUCTION

Politics have become a polarizing subject in recent years. Many people have sharply different views and debate with each other regarding these. The discussion, especially in social media, have become so intense that personal relationships have suffered or even severed because of conflicting opinions. How can we, as believers, voice our opinions without compromising our testimony? Let's take a look at biblical principles given by our all-knowing and wise God that we can follow.

## Biblical guidelines for interactions regarding politics and politicians (John 18:36; Matthew 22:20-21; Titus 3:1-7)

- 1. In John 18, what did Jesus say about His kingdom? How did He describe it?
- 2. What are the implications of Christ's statements? What does it say about the subjects of His kingdom?
- 3. In Matthew 22, Christ was being asked whether He sided with the Roman empire (whether the collection of taxes was lawful) or not. How did Jesus respond to their question?
- 4. How was Christ's answer appropriate to the question? What principle(s) can we glean from his answer?
- 5. In Titus 3, what reminders did Paul tell Titus to give to the church?
- 6. What is the reason behind the reminders Paul gave Titus? How did Paul contrast the life of the believer before and after Christ saved them?
- 7. What is the connection between Paul's reminders and the contrast Paul showed? How does the contrast in a believer's life affect how they should treat others?

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# WORD & WALK: Understanding & Applying the Word

#### **Application**

#### Children

- 1. How can you be friends with others even though they are unkind?
- Let us take time to pray for our country and our leaders. Let us also pray for wisdom for our parents who will vote.

#### Youth

- At this point, you might have been exposed to or have participated in difficult political conversations, in your schools or even just on social media. How have those experiences been?
- 2. How can you personally better manage your testimony in your conversations with your relatives and schoolmates who may have differing political views? How can you uphold both the truth and gentleness with your words?

#### **Adults**

- How can you participate in a political discussion without compromising your testimony? What personal guidelines are you willing to abide by?
- Why was Jesus subjected to political execution through crucifixion? What was the charge against him? How does this challenge you in your political views? Reflect and think about it.

#### Community

- 1. How can we, as a church, follow Christ's example of not taking sides while at the same time addressing political issues?
- 2. As a community of believers, we collectively belong to Christ's kingdom. How should we act collectively when it comes to politics based on Christ's description of His kingdom?

#### World

Christ's kingdom extends beyond the nation of Israel. (Read John 10:14-16 & Revelation 5:9-10.) What does this tell us, as subjects of Christ's kingdom, about how we should view people all over the world?

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## WORD & WALK:

### Understanding & Applying the Word

## Biblical guidelines for choosing candidates (Psalm 78:70-72; Proverbs 6:16-19)

- 1. In Psalm 78, what characteristics of David do we see in the passage?
- 2. How are these characteristics important to people in leadership positions?
- 3. In Proverbs 6, list the things that God hates.
- 4. What would happen to a person in leadership when they possess these qualities? List down possible effects for each trait mentioned.

#### **Application**

#### Children

Grown-ups will be choosing new leaders for the country soon. We can pray together with our parents so they choose good leaders who obey God and who love the people.

#### Youth

- Many young people will be first-time voters this year, if not will-be voters in the near future. How can you equip yourself in a Biblical manner and help equip others to build discernment in choosing candidates?
- What are some of the ways that following Biblical guidelines for choosing candidates can serve the Lord and serve others in the places God has called us to be?

#### Adults

- It is important to know our candidates so we can compare them with the traits listed in Psalm 78 and Proverbs 6. How can you know more about our candidates?
- 2. How can you share these guidelines with others to help them in choosing between candidates?

#### Community

- 1. What are some ways that you and your community can bring the kingdom of God closer to the marginalized through the people we will vote for?
- Let us also be concerned about what happens after our political leaders have obtained power. Let us pray that our future leaders will use the freedom given to them to rule in God-fearing wisdom.

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## WORD & WALK: Understanding & Applying the Word

#### World

We now live in an era of global-connectedness. What criteria regarding foreign affairs should we develop for political candidates?

#### PRAYER ITEM

Pray for our nation as we come closer to the national elections. Pray for wisdom and discernment to those who will be voting. Pray for each other that we may maintain our testimonies to others while engaging in conversations about politics and politicians.



#### Your feedback is important to us.

If you used this study guide in leading your growth group, please rate it at https://bit.ly/GCFSGFeedback. Thank you!



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