

Sunday Sermon — Discussion Guide: Gyle Smith, 11-1-20

The Kingdom & Politics

1/3 — Looking Back

Start with prayer and/or worship (reading a Psalm, singing a song, giving thanks, etc.). Re-cast the vision (see example video [here](#)), review obedience goals from the previous week, and ask how everybody is doing. Check-in question options:

- Up/In/Out — How are you doing in your three primary relational spheres? (Up: *God*. In: *fellow believers and family*. Out: *unbelievers*)
- Highs/Lows: What was your “high” and your “low” from the past week?

2/3 — Looking to Jesus in the Present

Explore these Scripture passages together: Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Philippians 3:20; 1 Peter 2:9; Acts 4:18-20

- As the facilitator, first read the passages aloud and invite the other members of the group to just listen and take note of what stands out to them. You may want to read these more than once.
- Discuss the question: “*what do we learn from these passages about who God is and what He does?*”
- Discuss the question: “*what do we learn from these passages about who we are and what we do?*”
- Alternative question: “*what do we learn from these passages about how our Kingdom citizenship should influence our attitudes and actions in relation to worldly governments and politics?*”

3/3 — Looking Forward

Ask Jesus how he wants you to respond (corporately and individually) to what you have heard and learned. You can also practice the following exercise:

- Sit quietly together in Jesus’ presence and ask yourself the question, “*Am I truly expressing my Kingdom citizenship through my attitudes and actions in relation to worldly government and politics?*” Pay special attention to whatever thoughts or feelings surface in your mind and heart, and remain open to however the Spirit may want to speak to you through them. Reflect on what changes you may need to make in your life if the things you have discussed are actually true. Does your current lifestyle — the way you *think, speak, act, and live* overall — demonstrate to a watching world that you have are truly a citizen of a different Kingdom? After some time of personal reflection, share your thoughts with one another as a group. End your time by praying together, repenting if needed, and asking Jesus for the strength you need to live lives of faithfulness to Him as devoted citizens of His Kingdom.