

Asking for a Friend.

Groups Discussion Guide – September 27, 2020

A great way to love our neighbors and do justice, which are biblical imperatives, is to vote. In a democracy, rendering to Caesar what is Caesar's involves voting. The question is, *"How should we vote?"* Pastor Jared gave 5 filters for how followers of Jesus should vote. First, we should vote thankfully. Even though there is no perfect candidate, we can thank God that we will live in a country where we can vote. Second, we should vote righteously. Governments exist to do justice – Proverbs 29:4. When we vote, ask the question: Which platform will make and uphold the laws in a way that best affirm people as created in God's image? Third, we should vote strategically. Pastor Jared gave the example of the early church and what they valued that ultimately set them apart. The early Christians valued: Life, biblical sexuality, caring for the oppressed and poor, diversity. Followers of Jesus don't allow political parties to define what matters. Fourth, we should vote evangelistically. This has less to do with how we vote and more to do with how we talk about it. Remember...we would never want our political attitude to turn people away from Jesus. Lastly, we should vote with a loose grip. God is in control and as followers of Jesus, we can disagree politically and still love each other unconditionally.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Of the four areas on how we can vote evangelistically: Humility, self-sacrifice, respect government and leaders, promote peace, which attitude do you need to develop the most? What is one practical way to grow in this area?
2. Even if you think you're right in your political judgments (which we all do), it is good to remember Paul's words in Romans 14 about forbearing with those who are weak and not passing judgment. Why is it so important to extend grace to those who may see things differently?
3. As followers of Jesus, our allegiance is to a greater Kingdom. Not a political party. Read John 17:1, John 17:11, John 17:20,21. Even in our disagreements about important issues, why is unity among believers mission critical?

ACT ON IT

Intentionally take time to pray our government leaders. Will you make the commitment to pray for the leaders in authority regardless of who wins the election? As you close your time in your group, pray for the nominees of both major parties?

PRAY ABOUT IT

"Jesus, thank You that you are in control. Our allegiance is to you and you alone. Lord, we will not allow anyone or anything to divide us as followers of Jesus. Even though we may disagree, help us to love unconditionally. Ultimately, we pray for Your will to be done and we pray for your Kingdom to come."