

NAVIGATING FAITH & GOVERNMENT

EPISODE 5: PRESIDENT *NEBUCHADNEZZAR*?

look back

First, **LOOK BACK** at the past week by asking, “How did we do?” Begin with prayer, then check in with one another—sharing honestly, celebrating victories, acknowledging struggles, and graciously offering practical help.

 **PRAYER** - Begin with prayer, inviting Jesus into the conversation.

Follow Up on Last Episode’s Assignment

- As you reflected on Daniel’s example, what stood out to you most about serving God faithfully while living and working in Babylon?
- Did you identify an area of your life where you could demonstrate greater faithfulness or excellence? What step did you take?
- Did God reveal any convictions you may be tempted to compromise? How did you respond?
- How is God helping you become both a faithful servant and a courageous witness even in imperfect places?

look up

Next, **LOOK UP** to God’s Word by asking, “What does Jesus want us to know?” If you haven’t already, watch this week’s video: *President Nebuchadnezzar?* Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

 **WATCH: Episode 5: President *Nebuchadnezzar*?**

Episode Summary

Living in Babylon means learning how to respond when leaders disappoint us—or when the candidate we opposed wins the election. Scripture reminds us that Christians are not voting for saviors, but seeking the welfare of the communities where God has placed them while trusting His sovereignty over history. Like Daniel, we are called to pray for leaders, honor those in authority, and serve faithfully even under imperfect governments. Above all, our ultimate loyalty belongs to Jesus Christ, the true King who reigns over every nation and ruler.

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Whether you’re studying on your own or with a group, each guide follows a simple yet powerful rhythm: **Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward**. For group leaders, additional instructions for leading a small group are included at the end of the first workbook in each series.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

This six-part series helps believers navigate conversations about faith and government with biblical wisdom, humility, and hope. Each episode explores God’s design for government, our identity as citizens of heaven, and our calling to live faithfully in an increasingly divided culture. The goal is not to win political arguments, but to point people to Jesus, engage others with grace, and pass on a legacy of faith to the next generation.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does it mean practically to remember that we are not voting for saviors?
2. Which of the five voting principles discussed in this lesson do you find most challenging? Why?
3. Why is it often easier to criticize leaders than to pray for them?
4. What does honoring leaders look like when you strongly disagree with their beliefs, policies, or behavior?
5. How can we model a Christ-centered approach to politics for our children, grandchildren, and younger believers?
6. What are some situations today where Christians may need to respectfully say, “No sir, not now, and not ever”?

Respect the office, even when the person disappoints you.

Episode Notes

1. We aren't voting for saviors

- Our citizenship is in heaven
 - Jesus alone secures our future
 - Political leaders cannot save us
 - History belongs to God and is moving toward His purposes
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2. We live with imperfect choices

- Most political choices involve imperfect candidates
 - Christians should seek the peace and prosperity of Babylon
 - We vote thoughtfully and prayerfully
 - This side of heaven we will never get everything we want
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3. How to respond when Nebuchadnezzar wins

- Accept reality without losing hope
 - Remember that God remains sovereign over history
 - Work for the good of your community
 - Help leaders succeed in doing what is right
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4. Pray for and honor those in authority

- Pray for leaders whether you agree with them or not
 - Respect the position even when the person disappoints you
 - Model honor and respect to the next generation
 - Accomplish more on your knees than through political outrage
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5. Jesus is our ultimate king

- Use legal and peaceful means to pursue change
 - Refuse to compromise obedience to God
 - Know when to say, "No sir, not now, and not ever"
 - Remain faithful to Christ above every earthly authority
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WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Daniel 3:17–18 – “If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it... But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” Faithfulness to God sometimes requires standing firm against earthly authority when obedience to that authority would require disobedience to God.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Daniel 1:8 – “But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.” Daniel demonstrates that godly conviction begins long before moments of public confrontation. Faithfulness is built through daily obedience.



Finally, **LOOK FORWARD** by asking, “What does Jesus want us to do?” Commit to practical steps for living out this week’s lesson. Review the assignment, share commitments with the group, pray for one another, and move forward together in faith and hope.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Ecclesiastes 8:2–5
Proverbs 14:34
2 Chronicles 7:14

THIS EPISODE’S ASSIGNMENT

This week, choose one government leader—local, state, or national—and pray for them by name every day, regardless of whether you agree with them politically. Ask God to give them wisdom, integrity, courage, and a heart that seeks justice and truth.

Also, take inventory of your conversations, attitudes, and social media activity. If there are places where criticism has replaced honor, ask God to help you model respect and Christlike character while remaining faithful to your convictions.

Bonus Challenge: Take a one-week fast from engaging in any critical or negative comments (in person or on social media) about the leaders in each area of your life.

PERSONAL GROWTH COMMITMENTS



- What has God laid on my heart?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading me to change?
- What will I do in my own life, in my relationships, and to reach next-gen loved ones?

SHARE WITH THE GROUP



Encourage sharing commitments, prayer needs, and real-life stories. Close with prayer.

