

NAVIGATING FAITH & GOVERNMENT

EPISODE 1:

GOVERNMENT 101

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.

Since this is the first episode in this series, take time to:

- Share what brought you here and why you decided to begin this series.
- Talk about the challenges you face when discussing politics, government, or cultural issues with family members.
- Reflect on what you hope to gain from these episodes.
- Share how you hope to pass on a legacy of faith to the next generation in an increasingly divided culture.

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: “*Navigating Faith & Government: Government 101*.” Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

 **WATCH: Episode 1: Government 101**

Episode Summary

Government is not a human invention but a gift from God designed to promote order, justice, and human flourishing. Scripture reveals three God-ordained spheres of government—family, church, and civil government—each with unique responsibilities and boundaries. When these spheres remain healthy and distinct, they help protect people from abuse and chaos. Our ultimate hope is not in political outcomes, but in Jesus Christ, who alone can transform hearts and cultures.

Our hope isn't in political outcomes, but in Jesus.

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. Which of the three God-ordained governments—family, church, or civil government—do you think is most misunderstood or misapplied in our culture today? Why?
2. Why do you think God prefers imperfect government to anarchy and lawlessness?
3. Why do you think God designed the church and the state to have different roles? How can Christians remain engaged in public life without confusing those roles?
4. The episode teaches that Christians are called to win spiritual battles rather than political ones. What does that distinction mean to you?
5. If your primary goal is to pass on a legacy of faith rather than simply raising good citizens, how might that change conversations with your children or grandchildren about government and politics?

Episode Notes

1. Government is God's idea

- Government originates with God, not man
 - Authority and order are rooted in creation
 - Family was the first government established on earth
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2. God established three spheres of government

- Family: Protect, equip, and nurture
 - Church: Protect, equip, and support God's family
 - Civil Government: Protect citizens, provide justice, and promote peace
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3. Government requires checks and balances

- Family, Church, and Civil Government each have unique roles
 - Separation protects against abuse and corruption
 - Princes, Pastors, and Parents must stay within their God-given responsibilities
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4. Our ultimate hope is in Jesus

- We begin with God's Word as our authority
 - We fight spiritual battles, not merely political ones
 - We seek to be salt and light rather than dominate culture
 - Only Jesus can transform hearts and cultures
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WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Romans 13:1 – “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.” All legitimate authority ultimately comes from God and exists under His sovereign rule.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:21 – “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” Jesus affirms the proper place of earthly government while reminding us that our highest allegiance belongs to God.



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

Genesis 1:26–28
Hebrews 13:17
Acts 5:29

THIS EPISODE’S ASSIGNMENT

Spend time this week examining where you place your ultimate hope when cultural or political tensions arise. Read the key and supporting scriptures and ask God to help you think biblically about authority and government.

Also, pray each day for a leader in each of the three spheres of government—a family leader, a church leader, and a civil leader—and ask God to give them wisdom, integrity, and courage.

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.



ESSENTIALS FOR LEADING A SMALL GROUP

These principles help create a safe, encouraging environment where everyone can grow and connect:

- **Begin with Prayer** – Invite Jesus into the meeting and ask for His guidance. Prayer can also help refocus if discussion drifts or stalls.
- **Create a Welcoming Setup** – Sit in a circle so everyone can see each other. Affirm contributions and foster an atmosphere where every question and comment is welcomed without judgment.
- **Facilitate, Don't Lecture** – Guide the conversation using thoughtful, Scripture-based questions. Aim for participants to do most of the talking while you model active listening.
- **Stay on Mission** – Gently redirect if conversation drifts into partisan arguments or unhelpful debates, keeping the focus on biblical truth and passing on a legacy of faith.
- **Model Grace & Openness** – Be transparent about your own journey, admit you don't have all the answers, and set expectations for confidentiality, respect, and grace.
- **Build Relationships** – Include some social time before or after the episode to strengthen trust and connection.
- **Follow the Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward Rhythm** – Stick to the format for balance, and practice compassionate accountability—celebrating progress and offering grace for struggles.



Explore additional resources and upcoming events at LegacyImperative.org. If this series blesses you, please share it—and consider helping us reach more families by clicking the donate button.