

NAVIGATING FAITH & GOVERNMENT

EPISODE 6:

BUILDING BRIDGES, NOT WALLS

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

- Who did you choose to pray for regardless of whether you agree with them politically this week, and how did praying for that leader affect your perspective?
- Did you attempt the one-week fast from critical or negative comments about leaders? What was the most difficult part? What did God teach you through the experience?
- How did honoring and praying for leaders strengthen your witness to family members, friends, and the next generation?

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: *Building Bridges, Not Walls*. Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

 **WATCH: Episode 6: Building Bridges, Not Walls.**

Episode Summary

Followers of Jesus are called to be bridge builders in a world that constantly encourages division. As citizens of heaven living in Babylon, we are called to bring peace, listen well, and build relationships that allow truth and grace to travel across generations. The goal is not to win arguments or cultural battles but to help people find Jesus and inherit a legacy of faith. When we keep eternity in view, we learn to invest our remaining years in what matters most: the people God has entrusted to us.

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 bridge-building quality do you find most challenging: courage, listening, or keeping perspective?
2. What is the difference between listening to understand and listening to respond?
3. What does it look like when Christians become “dragons fighting dragons” in cultural or political conflicts?
4. How can we fight spiritual battles with spiritual weapons rather than worldly ones?
5. If you had only a few years left to invest in the next generation, what would you want to pass on most?

Jesus built a bridge in the shape of a cross.

Episode Notes

1. Remember your purpose in Babylon

- We are citizens of heaven living as exiles in Babylon
 - God has called us to bring peace where He has placed us
 - Jesus is the ultimate bridge builder
 - Peacemakers tear down walls and build bridges
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2. Bridges connect the past to the future

- Every generation receives a legacy and passes one on
 - Future generations need to connect with the past
 - Older generations must learn how to connect with future generations
 - Our faith legacy must cross generational divides
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3. Bridge building requires courage

- Crossing divides is uncomfortable and sometimes costly
 - Listening is essential to understanding others
 - Dialogue builds bridges while arguments build walls
 - Keeping an eternal perspective helps preserve relationships
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4. Don't become a dragon

- Our battle is spiritual, not against flesh and blood
 - Worldly weapons cannot win spiritual wars
 - God's Word and prayer are our primary weapons
 - We must avoid becoming like those we oppose
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5. Invest where the returns are best

- Time is limited and opportunities are precious
 - Invest in relationships that will outlast this life
 - Prioritize children and grandchildren
 - Focus on eternal outcomes rather than temporary victories
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WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:9 – “**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**”

Followers of Jesus are called to build peace, reconcile relationships, and reflect the character of their Heavenly Father.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

James 1:19 – “**My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.**” Bridge builders listen carefully, respond thoughtfully, and refuse to let anger control their relationships.



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

Revelation 12:7–12
2 Timothy 1:5–7
1 Peter 3:15–17

THIS EPISODE’S ASSIGNMENT

Prayerfully consider whether there is a family member, friend, or acquaintance with whom political, cultural, or personal disagreements have damaged your relationship. Ask the Lord to show you where your words, attitudes, or actions may have contributed to the division.

If God reveals an area where you have been at fault, take a step toward reconciliation by asking that person for forgiveness.

As you do, ask God to help you value relationships more than winning arguments and to keep eternity at the center of your priorities.

Bonus Challenge: SHARE THIS SERIES with a family member, friend, small group, or church leader who could benefit from a biblical perspective on faith, government, and passing on a legacy of faith to the next generation.

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.

