

WHAT FRUSTRATES EVANGELICAL GEN Zs

EPISODE 1: POLITICS OVER FAITH

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 to this study and what you hope to gain.
- Talk about any situations where you’ve felt unable or unwelcome to share your faith with family members or friends.
- Ask God to give your group wisdom, compassion, and hope as you begin this journey together.

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: “*Politics Over Faith*.” Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

 **WATCH: Episode 1: Politics Over Faith**

Episode Summary

Many evangelical NextGens are frustrated when Christianity seems more closely identified with a political party, ideology, or national identity than with Jesus. Scripture calls us to participate responsibly in civic life while remembering that our deepest allegiance and citizenship belong to Christ and His Kingdom.

When politics becomes an idol, it distorts our witness and divides the church. Jesus offers a better way—allowing biblical truth to shape our engagement while building a community united around Him rather than political conformity.

We don't promote the donkey or the elephant. We lift up the lion and the lamb.

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 series explores some of the frustrations evangelical Gen Zs have expressed about older Christians and the church. Each episode invites us to listen seriously to their concerns, examine ourselves honestly, and look to Jesus for a better way forward. The goal is not to change biblical truth to accommodate the next generation, but to remove unnecessary barriers that can keep them from seeing and experiencing an authentic faith in Christ.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why do you think younger evangelicals may be particularly troubled when Christianity becomes closely identified with a political party or movement?
2. What is the difference between allowing your faith to shape your politics and allowing your politics to shape your faith?
3. What are some warning signs that political involvement, national identity, or allegiance to a political leader may be becoming a form of idolatry?
4. Jesus brought tax collectors and zealots with opposing political loyalties into the same community. What does His example teach us about political differences within the church?
5. What does it mean practically to be a spiritual warrior rather than a political or cultural warrior?

Episode Notes

1. When Partisan Politics Shape Faith

- Faith should shape our politics—not the other way around.

- Our identity is in Christ, not a political party.

- Politics, leaders, and nationalism can become idols.

- Our hope comes from above—not the right or left.

- Jesus united people with opposing political views.

- Our ultimate allegiance is to Jesus and His Kingdom.



WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Philippians 3:20 - “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Our earthly citizenship carries responsibilities, but it is never our highest identity. Christians belong first to Christ and His Kingdom.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:21 - “Then he said to them, ‘So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.’” Jesus affirmed legitimate civic responsibility while making clear that Caesar does not occupy the place that 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

Ephesians 6:10–12
John 17:20–23

THIS EPISODE’S ASSIGNMENT

Take an honest inventory of the place politics occupies in your life. For one week, pay attention to the time and emotional energy you give to political news, commentary, social media, and conversation compared with Scripture, prayer, worship, and other practices that form you as a follower of Jesus.

Also pay attention to your own words. When you talk about political leaders, parties, or people who disagree with you, ask yourself: **Does the way I speak sound more like Jesus or the culture war around me?**

At the end of the week, prayerfully consider one change that would help put politics back in its proper place and make your identity in Christ more evident 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 honest reflections. Close in prayer, asking God to reveal any political loyalties that have begun competing with allegiance to Christ, to help you engage civic life faithfully without adopting the spirit of the culture war, and to make the church a place where Jesus unites people across political differences.



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.
- **Create a Welcoming Setup** – Sit in a circle so everyone can see each other.
- **Facilitate, Don't Lecture** – Guide the conversation using thoughtful, Scripture-based questions.
- **Stay on Mission** – Gently redirect if conversation drifts into unrelated topics or personal debates.
- **Model Grace & Openness** – Be transparent about your own journey and set expectations for confidentiality.
- **Build Relationships** – Include social time before or after the session.
- **Follow the Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward Rhythm** – Celebrate progress, offer grace for struggles, and encourage one another as you grow together.



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.