

Conversation Starters

- What thoughts or feelings come to mind when you think of the United States?
- What do you think has fueled any of those thoughts or feelings?

Discuss

Historically, the United States was a religious country, but not necessarily a uniquely Christian one. And biblically, we don't find support for the attempt to establish a Christian nation. God is always bigger than a side, and Jesus resolutely rejected reducing His kingdom, much less His agenda, to anything political or of this world.

“Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, ‘Are you for us or for our enemies?’ ‘Neither,’ he replied, ‘but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.’”
(Joshua 5:13-14, NIV)

“Jesus answered, ‘My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.’”
(John 18:36, NLT)

- What does the angel's response to Joshua and Jesus' answer to Pilate teach us about God's Kingdom?
- How can you become more involved in God's agenda for the world?

You can't legislate morality. Politics matter and we should strive to work for God's Kingdom in all we do, including politically; but rather than striving to be a Christian nation, our goal should be to become a nation of Christians.

- What steps can you take to serve God through politics?
- How can you prioritize your passion for Jesus over political work or views?

If we had the same passion for sharing the message of Jesus as we do for sharing our political views, this would be a changed world.

- How are you fueling your passion for sharing the message of Jesus?
- Are there people in your life that you can invest more in for God?
- Are there areas in your community that you can serve for God?

Next Steps

Only Jesus has the power to change a human heart. As important as it is to give time now to making political decisions, are you giving time to spread the message of Jesus? How can you do that this week?

Oct 20: [Let's Talk: Race and Faith](#)

Oct 21: [The Grounds Online Book Club: “A Gentle Answer”](#)

Oct 24: [Second Harvest Food Bank Serve Day](#)

Nov 9/12: [TeamLife Online](#)

Further Reflection

Read [Joshua 5:13-14](#); [John 6:14-15](#); [18:28-36](#); [Matthew 4:8-10](#).

Pray

God, you are bigger than any political party or agenda. Forgive us when we put any agenda above you. Thank you for the work you do in each of our lives, and for the opportunity to partner with you in how you're working in the world. Help us to keep our priorities in the right order and give us your wisdom and guidance for how we can serve the community around us.