

Messiah 2020: Week 1

American Idol

Scripture Memory of the Month

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

- Matthew 28:19-20

1) CATCH UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the day in and day out happenings of our lives. Because God is our Father we are family. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?

What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)? Are there any practical needs you have right now?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2) DISCUSS THE TEXT - ENGAGE THE HEART

Since we follow Jesus we seek to apply the Gospel continually to all of life. God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25).

Group Leaders, please read this note from Teaching Team out loud:

The goal of discussion during this series is not to publicize or argue for our personal political perspective, but to allow the Scriptures to inform and where necessary, reshape our understanding and our approach to politics. As we discuss these questions let's not forget Jesus died on the cross for us to be adopted into God's family and we are brothers and sisters to one another. That is both our starting point and our conclusion for discussion each week. Let's all pray that God will form us into faithful followers of Jesus who represent Him well in the way we approach politics.

What is your level of interest or care in politics?

Chet stated that there is a difference between politics (the ordering of government) and partisanship (the division of politics into tribes for war). How has the partisanship of politics affected you? Do you have fears about who gets in power? Do you have allegiance to one party? How angry has all of this made you and what does your anger typically result in?

Read Philipians 3:17-21

What stands out to you from this passage in light of politics?

What from this passage helps combat our desire to participate at the same level in these as the rest of our culture?

The following questions were asked during the sermon. Take some time to read through them on your own.

IDOLATRY IDENTIFIER

1) Are you able to critique and criticize your party of choice? Do you jump to your candidates defense when they are criticized? Are you able to speak well of the other party?

2) Do you evangelize more for your party than for your faith? Which is scarier to you - that you side might not win or that you might not participate in the mission of God?

3) If someone followed you on Twitter or Facebook would it be clear which political party you are for and which you think they should be for but not be clear that you know and love Jesus?

4) Do you have more in common with those who share your politics than with those who share your faith?

5) Have you spent more time listening to talk of politics—on social media, talk radio, cable news, and so on—than you spent in the Word of God or with gospel-oriented media?

6) When you discover that a fellow believer disagrees with your political preferences, do you make assumptions about their level of sanctification and commitment to Jesus based on their political affiliation?

7) Do you assume the worst about people on the other side of the political divide? Or have a hard time believing they could be actual Christians?

8) Based on your thoughts and actions over the past month, does it seem as if you're more concerned about the next four years than I am with eternity?

9) Are your political views more shaped by the radio, news, and facebook than by the inspired words of Scripture?

10) If the election in November were to go your way, when you picture January of 2021 does who is in the Whitehouse give you a greater sense of security than who is on the Eternal Throne?

Do you feel that these questions revealed anything to you about your approach to politics? If so, what?

As a follower of Jesus how might you begin to repent and grow in your approach to politics?

3) REVIEW THE MISSION

Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit we have been sent as missionaries in everyday life to display God's glory and lead others to repentance and faith through belief in the gospel. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

People:

Who can be intentionally living on mission amidst our current situation? (neighbors, coworkers, or a specific demographic in Columbia)

Plan:

Who is one person you can share the gospel with this week? How can that be done under the current constraints? Spend some time praying for these opportunities.

How can we be intentional in times like this about sharing the gospel?

Pray:

Pray for God to help us love him above all else that we may join him boldly in his mission to redeem the world. Pray for those around us that we need to share this with or invite in.