

## Session 3: Citizens of Another Kingdom

### GOALS

**Main Idea:** When it comes to politics, focus on representing Jesus faithfully, avoid the extremes of overemphasizing or neglecting politics, and prioritize your mission of testifying to Christ.

**Head Change:** To view political engagement as a means to reflect Jesus’s grace and truth.

**Heart Change:** To inspire you to approach politics with humility, compassion, and a deep commitment to honoring Jesus above any personal or partisan agendas.

**Life Change:** To engage in *all* aspects of life (politics included) in such a way that will ensure your words and actions accurately reflect God’s kingdom values.

### OPEN

Choose one of the following questions to begin your discussion:

*What was your family’s approach to political discussions when you were growing up? Were politics discussed openly, avoided entirely, or something in between?*

*If you could ask Jesus one question about how to navigate today’s political climate . . . what question would you ask? Why that particular question?*

### WATCH

Watch Session 3: “Citizens of Another Kingdom” (18 minutes).

- Jesus preached a political gospel that challenged earthly rulers and emphasized that is followers’ ultimate citizenship was in his kingdom.
- Christians must avoid *overemphasizing* politics as the ultimate solution to all society’s ills or *dismissing* the importance of politics entirely.
- Christians must speak clearly where Scripture speaks clearly, maintain unity despite differing strategies, and never morally equivocate or excuse evil.
- The unity found in Christ should supersede political differences and demonstrate the gospel’s power to bring together diverse perspectives.
- Christians prioritize presenting an accurate picture of Jesus, which will ensure his name remains untarnished by political affiliations or compromises.

### DISCUSS

Discuss what you just watched by answering the following questions.

1. How should recognizing that Jesus is your true “king” shape the way you approach politics and political engagements in today’s world?
2. Read Mark 1:1. How does the political context of the word *gospel*/ challenge your understanding of Jesus’ mission and message?
3. Read Jeremiah 29:7. What does it mean to “seek the peace and prosperity of the city” in which you live? What impact should this have on your involvement in politics?
4. Read John 6:15. Why did Jesus withdraw from being made an earthly king? What does this teach you about balancing earthly politics with eternal priorities?
5. How can you, as a Christian, avoid the extremes of overemphasizing or neglecting politics while staying focused on your primary mission of sharing the gospel with the world?

**REFLECT**

Complete the following activities before watching the next session.

**Read:** Read Luke 12:13–15. How does Jesus’s response to this inheritance dispute challenge you to prioritize eternal values over earthly concerns when it comes to your daily decisions?

**Write:** Write out some ways you could engage with the people in your life who are on the opposite end of the political spectrum from you, the next time you have a disagreement.

**Pray:** Pray that your political engagement would consistently honor Jesus’s name and give others an accurate picture of his character and kingdom.

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