

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. Make sure to go over the rules of engagement before you jump into the discussion about the video conversation. These rules about group conversations will help people feel safe, and it will give everyone a shared expectation for how the conversation will go. These rules will also help you bring the conversation back to a constructive place should it get off track.
2. This video may be challenging for group members to hear, so focus on giving people a place to process what they've heard. Don't focus on whether or not people are providing the "right" answer or response to the video. Give them the freedom to agree or disagree, like or dislike what they've watched. The more people process their honest thoughts and feelings, the more they will be able to engage the content of the video.
3. Everything about Jesus and the Church is political because politics is about governing people. The Gospel message is that the crucified and resurrected Jesus is the Lord of the world. He is governing and leading a new people to exercise their power to serve others in the world.
4. You may need to spend time talking about the nuances of the word politics. In general, politics is concerned with the decisions a group of people has to make about how they are going to live. How do we live together in ways that promote the flourishing of people? For some, the word politics may trigger ideas of partisanship where people are so biased they can't see the good points and perspectives of others with whom they disagree. That's not what we mean by politics. For others, politics may mean something like getting stabbed in the back or excluded by a small group of people at the local school or church. Those are examples of politics gone wrong when the people in power aren't wisely governing and leading people. The politics of Jesus are vastly different.
5. There are no easy answers to the questions about what it looks like to give allegiance to King Jesus before all other political parties. In the church, we may have different preferences and persuasions, but our conversations should be different, and how we think about power will be very different if we are putting Jesus above all others. Let some of the closing questions tease out some of the complicated ways this may be experienced.
6. The closing challenge will connect people in different ways. Be open to how people are feeling challenged. Do your best to support and challenge your group members. Be sure to close the group in prayer, asking God to give everyone in our church to be wise in how we talk about and model the life of Jesus.

COMMUNITY'S RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

1. **Listen Well.** We don't listen in anticipation of our turn to talk. We listen to understand. We are also not listening to place blame on a group of people when there is disagreement. When we listen to understand, we absorb and diffuse negative emotions.
2. **Ask Anything.** What if your first response to someone's challenging statement was a question and not a rebuttal. By asking questions and seeking to understand how people have arrived at their opinions and perspectives, we create a safe place where people can belong and be known. Listening is one of the most practical ways we love people.
3. **Disagree Freely.** We have to help people become more comfortable with disagreement. This is like a muscle - a community muscle that needs to grow and develop, and it grows stronger as we come together and get more comfortable living in a diverse community.
4. **Love Anyway.** Loving well doesn't mean we will all agree or that we should expect uniformity. It does mean giving space and freedom to others to be who they are and where they are on their spiritual journey. As a leader, you are helping people to grow and take steps they wouldn't have taken on their own, so we want to love people right where they are in their journey by challenging them and supporting them.