

**Political Reality | Week 1****Big Idea**

Our current political reality presents an incredible opportunity for followers of Jesus to demonstrate an alternative vision for the future: Life lived in the Kingdom of God.

**Scripture**

John 17:6-19, Philippians 3:17-21, Matthew 5:13, and Galatians 5:22-23a

**Points to Keep In Mind**

1. In John 17:6-19, Jesus prayed for unity among his followers, which can be contrasted with the often divisive nature of our politics today. Jesus also prayed for the mission, the protection of his followers, for the truth to prevail, and for resilience among his followers, all of which can relate to the politics of our day and how we, as Christ-followers, are to respond and interact.
2. In Philippians 3:17-21, Jesus reminds us where our true citizenship lies, with the Kingdom of God where Jesus is King! Our true identity is being a child of God (1 John 3:1). We are chosen by God to declare God's praises (1 Peter 2:9).
3. Salt's functions in the ancient world included preservation, flavoring, and healing. It was also a precious trade commodity. Being "salt of the earth" involves preserving the goodness, truth, and moral integrity in this world. Just as salt enhances the taste of food, we, as Christ-followers, are to bring out the best in this world, bringing kindness, love, and justice, making life richer and more meaningful for others. Salt was also used for medicinal purposes, which can be translated as bringing healing to the broken parts of our world. Staying in community with other Christ-followers helps us to be accountable for retaining our "saltiness" in the world. Thank you, amazing small group leaders, for how you create this type of environment week after week!
4. The fruit of the Holy Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23a are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. When we, as Christ-followers, bring these virtues into our conversations, including political ones, it could lead to a more compassionate, cooperative, and ethical political climate.

**Additional Questions and Resources**

*visit [communitychristian.org/nextsteps](http://communitychristian.org/nextsteps)*

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? [communitychristian.org/baptism](http://communitychristian.org/baptism)
4. What have you been learning from the Community Daily?
5. If someone is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: [communitychristian.org/support](http://communitychristian.org/support)
6. Find out more about having a YOU+ conversation by visiting [communitychristian.org/you/](http://communitychristian.org/you/)
7. How have you been able to BLESS others recently? (B-begin with prayer, L-listen, E-eat, S-serve, and S-share your story)