

HOPE DURING THE ELECTION

ABOUT THIS WEEK

This week, your group will find hope during the election in a politics-free discussion about God's kingdom!

ITEMS NEEDED

- Bibles Pens

CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR GROUP ARRIVES

- Pray for your group Read through Discussion Guide Refreshments (optional)
 Clean meeting area Clean bathroom Crack front door

OPENING (10-12 MIN)

Briefly welcome everyone and say: Let's get things started with a quick icebreaker—

WHEN I SAY "KING IN A MOVIE", WHO COMES TO MIND AND HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THEIR RULE?

After a discussion, say: Well, once again, thank you all for being here. The concept of a king is pretty foreign to us, but it's an important concept for us to remember as we get into today's discussion.

But first, let's pray

OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

Host, lead the group in prayer.

GOD'S KINGDOM (5-7 MIN)

After the prayer say: We are in a short series called *Hope During the Election* where we're putting politics in perspective. If you were at church, Pastor Chris had a list of words he said he would not say in his sermon. That same rule applies to us in this Small Group—we aren't going to say the names of any candidates or any issues but, interestingly enough, we will still be able to have a meaningful discussion on our *Hope During the Election* and put politics in perspective.

To get started, we've already discussed how movie kings ruled, let's look at how Scripture describes God's rule.

CAN SOMEONE READ PSALM 145:9-13 AND SOMEONE ELSE READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:15B-16 ALOUD FOR US?

BASED ON THIS READING, HOW WOULD WE DESCRIBE GOD AS A KING?

WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN FROM THIS READING?

CAESAR'S KINGDOM (5-7 MIN)

After the prayer say: That's what the Bible says about God's Kingdom, but it also speaks extensively about the kingdoms of the earth. One time, Jesus was being questioned by a Roman governor named Pilate and it gives us some interesting insights into kingdoms. Let's see what we can learn about earthly kingdoms from his interaction.

CAN SOMEONE READ JOHN 19:10-16 ALOUD FOR US?**BASED ON THIS READING, HOW WOULD WE DESCRIBE CAESAR AS A KING?****WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT THE KINGDOMS OF EARTH FROM THIS READING?****SUBMISSION (10 MIN)**

After a discussion, say: Scripture tells us God has appointed every human authority, even brutal ones we disagree with like Rome. This obviously has interesting implications for us today during an election season.

CAN SOMEONE READ 1 PETER 2:13-14 ALOUD FOR US?

After the reading, say: Even though Rome is persecuting Christians, Peter calls Christians to follow Jesus' example on the cross and to submit to human authority as citizens of God's kingdom and out of reverence for God's authority as the ultimate King. As long as a government doesn't a) force us to personally sin or b) forbid us from worship, our calling is to submit to every human authority out of reverence for God's authority.

Doing this is hard, though. Which leads us to the admonishment from the Apostle Paul when we struggle to submit to our leaders, or when we are worried and concerned about earthly authority.

CAN SOMEONE READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-3 ALOUD FOR US?**WHAT HOPE DOES THIS GIVE YOU?****HOW DO YOU DO THIS? DESCRIBE WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE AND WHEN YOU'D DO IT?****CLOSING PRAYER (5 – 7 MIN)**

After a discussion, say: One of the ways we can set our hearts and mind on things above is to pray. So let's do that!

DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY PRAYER REQUESTS?

Host, after taking prayer requests, close out the group in prayer.