



The kingdom of God grow in the midst of the kingdoms of the world. The kingdom of God can be found in every country, consisting of those of every tribe, tongue, and nation. Think about the implications of this. Let's learn the politics of Jesus.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breaker questions:

(1) What do you think of politics?

(2) Have you lost friends over political views? Discuss.

**GOD CARES ABOUT POLITICS.** Read Deut 2:1-23; Isa 40:23-24; Dan 4:17. Throughout the Old Testament, God is involved in the rise and fall of kingdoms. All people are made in the image of God, and God seeks to be Lord over all creation. How does this affect how you view world history? **Follow up:** Read Isa 10:12; Jer 18:7-10; Amos 1:1-2:8. Israel was a "Theocracy." This means that all religious, social, and economic teaching was supposed to come from one source, laid down by one sovereign—God. This means Israel was required to keep God's covenant law. The rest of the world was not held to the covenant; but they were expected to live under God's moral law which he placed in creation and in every heart. What is the difference between these two?

**THE ANCIENT TROUBLE WITH POLITICS.** Read 1 Kings 12. Syncretism is when you mix and match. For example, using the symbols and language of Israel but seeking the economic and political values of another kingdom. Jeroboam engages in this. Discuss the great problem with this approach. **Follow up:** Can language and signs of Christianity be co-opted by world kingdoms?

**THE MODERN TROUBLE WITH POLITICS.** Read John 18:33-38. Christ taught that his kingdom was not of this world and is not to be confused with any nation. How are the ends of a democracy different from the ends of a theocracy? **Follow up:** Read Rev 7:9. Has the political scene created friends, broken barriers, and shown the gospel?

**THE ANTIDOTE.** Read Luke 6:20-38. The church has its own politics: the politics of Jesus. This involves two important moves: (1) submit to the reign of God, naming Christ as the only Lord. (2) Commit to the mission of God—which involves sharing the gospel and redeeming a fallen world. Are these callings ever in conflict with political ends of the kingdoms of the world? How do we navigate this? Discuss.

**LIVING THE POLITICS OF JESUS.** Josh Ross (of Sycamore View church in Memphis) lists these vows: (1) daily confess Jesus as Lord; (2) create daily spiritual practices; (3) become a better listener; (4) resist letting any media outlet become the primary way you think about the world; (5) be a peacemaker; (6) practice hospitality to invest in other people; (7) choose to regularly serve others. Will you take this vow?