



Exploring the Intersection of Faith & Politics

#1: "Can we talk about politics at church?"

Goal: to begin exploring ways that Christians can be "salt" and "light" in our world.

Open: *Can you think of the first presidential election that you voted in? What were some of the issues you remember? (You don't have to tell us who you voted for ☺)*

Dig: Matthew 5:13-16

- What is it about salt that Jesus wants Christians to be like?
- How are Christians the "light of the world"?
- What is the "shining city on a hill"? Why do you think Ronald Reagan latched on to that phrase so famously to describe America?
- What is the purpose of shining our lights? (cf. vs. 16)
- How does this passage relate to "politics"?

Discuss:

- Why do you think so many people are averse to discussing politics in church?
- Do you think addressing the relationship of faith to politics in the church is more helpful or more harmful? How so?
- What does the passage (Matt. 5:13-16) have to say about the way Christians are to engage the world?

- Would you say that your light has been... ? Why?
 - A flickering candle
 - A blinking flashlight
 - A blazing fire
 - A shining beacon
- Brainstorm ways in which Christians can be "salt" & "light" in our world. Be as specific as you can... (perhaps your Share Group might come up with a service project idea for the group to do together???)
- How often has a particular religious conviction influenced your vote? How often has a particular political opinion influenced your faith?

Prayer... *"how can we pray for you tonight?"*