



# UNDER GOD?

## The Week of September 20, 2020 God & Government Group Discussion Questions

[Watch this sermon summary from Pastor David at https://youtu.be/1bhal\\_67\\_hg](https://youtu.be/1bhal_67_hg)

### Intro Questions

- Have you ever been caught up in office politics?
- When you hear the word “politics” what is your response? Do you hate it like Pastor David once did? Or does it inspire you and fire you up?
- Do you believe the way you have typically handled politics is a biblical approach? Why or Why not?

### God is the ultimate source of authority in the World

- **Read Genesis 1:1-5**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and He called the darkness “night.” Evening came and then morning: the first day.

- What do we learn about nature of God in the passage?
- Why do you think God started with creating light and dark? Does this point to His planning creation?

- **Read Genesis 2:16-17**

And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.”

- Why did God give this command?
- We know that Adam and Eve ate and didn’t die instantly, so what was meant by death?

- **Read Psalm 119:1-2**

How happy are those whose way is blameless, who live according to the Lord's instruction! Happy are those who keep His decrees and seek Him with all their heart.

- Share about a time that you were happy to have followed God's law.

- **Read James 4:12**

There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

- What institutions do we see carrying out God's judgement on earth now?

## **God has established government to help us do what is right and reject what is wrong**

- **Read Romans 13:1-4**

Everyone must submit to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist are instituted by God. So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have its approval. For government is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because it does not carry the sword for no reason. For government is God's servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong.

- What are some ways that you have seen government bring good to its people?
- How does our government work to discourage wrong?
- God gave us the 10 commandments- do we see those reflected in our government?

## **God judges the nations. He raises governments up and he tears them down**

- **Read Isaiah 1:16-20**

Wash yourselves. Cleanse yourselves. Remove your evil deeds from My sight. Stop doing evil. Learn to do what is good. Seek justice. Correct the oppressor. Defend the rights of the fatherless. Plead the widow's cause.

"Come, let us discuss this," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are as red as crimson, they will be like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land. But if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

- **Read Exodus 9:13-16**

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh. Tell him: This is what Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews says: Let My people go, so that they may worship Me.

Otherwise, I am going to send all My plagues against you, your officials, and your people. Then you will know there is no one like Me in all the earth. By now I could have stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with a plague, and you would have been obliterated from the earth. However, I have let you live for this purpose: to show you My power and to make My name known in all the earth.

- What was the government supposed to be doing that it wasn't?
- What happened to these two governments when they didn't listen?

**Because God is the source of all authority, He has established government and is the judge of government, He alone is worthy of our worship and allegiance.**

- **Bible Discovery!**
  - Listen closely to this true account from the Book of Daniel. One of you will retell the story after we read it together.
  - Read Daniel 3.
  - Have a member of the group retell the story in their own words.
  - "Thank you, \_\_\_\_\_! Did he/she miss anything?"
  - What does this passage tell us about God?

**What do we do?**

- **Encourage government to do what is right**
- **Vote for the most good**
- **Exercise your influence**
- **Give your ultimate allegiance to God**
- **Take a look at your own political discourse**
  - Is my speech about all things political God honoring?
  - Is it encouraging to others?
  - In a conversation, do I make my political points in a way that reflects well on the cause of Christ?

### **Going Deeper**

Check out the "Under God?" section in the church app for more videos and Election Resources.