



## PART 1: ONE NATION UNDER GOD

When life is predictable, it's natural to lose sight of what we value most. But when a tsunami of uncertainty rolls in, things get real, real quick. Uncertainty doesn't *alter* our value system. It *exposes* it.

The reaction of evangelicals to political and cultural shifts in recent years revealed what they value most. Lurking beneath our Bible-laced rhetoric, faith claims, books, and sermons is a relentless drive to **win!**

### CONNECT

What's dangerous about the polarization in our country? How is it harmful to the church?

Talking about politics can be difficult for any group of people and the goal of this study is not to compare or contrast political ideologies. As you begin this study, have each person share how passionate they tend to be when it comes to engaging with politics. After everyone shares, commit to learning together as a group.

### LEARN

You will watch a shortened version of a message from this series to set up your group discussion. Watch the full message sometime this week as a reminder of what you talked about today.

### APPLY

After sharing what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. Toward the beginning of the video, Andy said, "We are not here to win culture wars, and we are certainly not here to win elections." In what ways have Christians lost credibility by their participation in culture wars? Why are so many Christians obsessed with winning? What is problematic about that?
2. Later in the video, Andy said, "When a church becomes preoccupied with defending its own rights rather than advocating for the rights of other people, it has lost its way. The church always looks better when we're advocating for other people's rights rather than our own." What are some ways we can prioritize defending other people's rights?





3. In all areas of our lives, but especially politically, it's important that our posture, tone, and approach reflect our law-of-Christ- informed consciences. Take some time to describe Jesus's posture, tone, and approach. Look up the verses on the following pages as starting places for the discussion.
  - **Posture: Philippians 2:3–8**  
*Jesus took on the nature of a servant despite being God in a body.*
  - **Tone: Matthew 22:17–22**  
*Jesus asked questions even when he spoke to those with evil intentions.*
  - **Approach: John 13:1–7**  
*Jesus served the disciples as a demonstration of how to lead.*
4. How would your political conversations changed if you intentionally decided to have Jesus's posture, tone, and approach?

## BEFORE NEXT TIME

Take some time to reflect on the posture, tone, and approach you normally take about politics. Does it mirror Jesus's approach? Read Galatians 5:13–26, where Paul describes the fruit the Holy Spirit produces in our lives. Ask God to help you respond this way in political situations.

## PRAY

Use part of Andy's prayer as a guide:

*Father, thank you. Thank you for giving us something to aspire to personally as a collection of churches. And Father, wherever this lands with us, let us just catch a glimpse of what would happen if the church in the United States of America rallied around the simple idea that Jesus is the King, the Son of the living God. We can only imagine what would happen in our communities and in our world. So, give us eyes to see, give us ears to hear, give us the courage to lean in and to respond and let go of anything—beginning with me—anything that impedes what you want to do through us and through your church. In Jesus's name, Amen.*

