



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

NOVEMBER 20, 2016 - PASTOR LIONEL YOUNG

A Post-Election Sermon Selected Passages

THINK & SHARE

Questions to get your group talking

Read Luke 10:25-29 (or 25-37, if you prefer). Who is your neighbor really? Consider all areas of your life: at home, at work, running errands, on social media or online, etc.

Why is it critical for us to be thinking about our neighbors during this post-election season?

STUDY & DISCUSS

Questions that invite you to dig deeper into the week's material & your own life

A. Read Matthew 6:33. What does it mean to seek God's kingdom first? What problems arise when hope subtly shifts from the kingdom of God to one's own nation/government?

B. Read 1 Corinthians 1:27. God's kingdom is an inversion of the world's values. Who is really strong? Powerful? Rich? While God's kingdom might seem "backwards" compared to what we're used to, what does this inversion accomplish?

"God's invasion of the world has also wrought an inversion: God has reversed the positions of insiders and outsiders. Those who are in positions of authority and privilege reject Jesus and his message; even Jesus' own disciples are slow to understand his teaching. Others, however—people of low or despised position in the social world of first-century Jewish culture—receive the gospel gladly, for their need is great." Richard Hays

C. In Galatians, we've focused quite a bit on our Christian identity as something received rather than achieved. That's amazing news for us personally. And corporately, it means that we all need Christ and in receiving Him, we become brothers and sisters. When you see your identity this way, how does that lead to including rather than excluding others?



D. Read Proverbs 18:13. One of the first and best ways we can love is to listen—not just wait our turn to speak, but *listen* before responding. When we stop to listen to someone else, what are we communicating (without words)? Why is listening especially important during a time when emotions are high and disagreement is rampant?

E. There is sometimes a sad lack of civility in how we talk to (and about) one another. Look again at Question C about identity and inclusion and Question D about listening. How might these two things help us to disagree more respectfully with those inside and outside the church?

PRAY & COMMIT Questions for your breakout prayer time and challenges for the rest of your week

LISTEN – Some people are feeling anxious or even fearful about the political situation in our country. Without offering trite responses at any point, take time to listen to how someone else is feeling and why. Even if you don't feel the same way, look for bridges in the conversation where you can understand what he/she might be experiencing.

SERVE – Think back to the opening discussion on neighbors, then consider your own immediate neighbors. Who is like you? Who is radically different? How can you serve them this week? Pray for God to give you an opportunity and jump on it when it happens!

GROW – Read Matthew 5:3-11 this week. The Bible calls these words of Jesus' "The Beatitudes," which in more modern parlance would be something like "The Be-Happys" or "9 Times When Someone was Truly at Peace." They're a description of life in God's kingdom. Take time to roll Jesus' words over in your mind and heart this week (we call that meditating). What application do the "Be-Happys" have for how you live right now as a follower of Christ?

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