

CALVARY WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE

September 27, 2020

As we discuss Faith and Politics for this series, please remember these important ground rules:

- *Believe the best in one another.*
- *Participate by seeking to understand, rather than seeking to change.*
- *Look for common ground.*



CONNECT

Spend some time checking in. What are highs and lows since you last met? How can your group members pray for and support each other this week?

GROW

- Hans suggested that often, we try to "make people into our own image" rather than live together in spite of our differences. Why is that so difficult? How can we hold deep convictions yet also listen to and learn from others right now?
- Read [John 5:1-13](#). What do you hear in that story? What would it look like today for us to value people over our positions or rules?
- Think about the space between us in our differences, specifically when it comes to politics. What would it take to "own" that space? Would it mean less finger pointing? More relationship-building? Get personal - how could you "own" that space in the coming weeks?
- There is a Jewish tradition that suggest God "re-ties the rope" between us when a relationship has been broken between us and God. Re-tying brings us closer together than before. How could that apply to us and a person with whom we disagree? What would that "closeness" look like?

PRAY

God, you know there is a distance between us and those we love, simply because of the political divide between us. Just as you prayed for us to become one, help us find ways to love unconditionally and to draw one another closer, even when there is distance. In your name we pray, Amen.