

Discussion Starter: Why do you think it is so “hard” or “rude” to discuss politics? Why is it often paired up to say, “don’t discuss politics or religion.” Is it a valid rule of thumb? Why or why not?

Prayer (*Let’s begin by mixing politics and religion. Pray for our country as we transition after this week’s elections. Pray especially for President Obama and for Florida’s governor-elect.*)

Key Passage: **2 Chronicles 7:13-14**

What are the challenges faced by Israel in verse 13? What challenges that the United States currently faces are most worrisome to you?

What are the four action steps that God commands Israel to take in response to the problems they face? Take time to discuss the four steps to make sure everyone in the group understands them. How does this biblical response look in comparison to your reaction to the current foreclosure crisis or the frighteningly large national debt?

According to this passage, what is the ultimate hope for the nation of Israel in times of turmoil? Where do you see the average American seeking hope instead (*new direction from election, new government programs, your own work ethic, etc.*)?

Discussion Questions:

What does it mean to say that the United States is a “Christian” nation? Is there a difference between being a “Christian” nation and being a nation built upon Judeo-Christian values? Why or why not?

Pastor Ramel emphasized at the beginning of his sermon that the nation’s problems are spiritual in nature. Read **Ephesians 6:12** and **2 Corinthians 4:3-4**. According to these verses, what is the true enemy of God’s people? What steps can I take now to help myself re-focus on this truth the next time I start to feel like ignorant, selfish, or misguided people are the real problem instead?

Read **1 Timothy 2:1-2**, and briefly summarize what these verses are telling us to do. When was the last time that you prayed for a political leader whom you dislike or with whom you strongly disagree?

What are some ways that you would like to see the Christians in our community can becoming more involved in the political process? Do you have any ideas for engaging with the culture without giving the impression that we find our ultimate hope in political action or change?