



Welcome to our Fall LifeGroup session

Sing a Worship Song:

For many of you, this will be your first time gathering as a group. Go around the room and have each person introduce themselves, having each person share how long they have been going to GCC and something interesting about themselves.

Please read these ground rules for this series: This is not a time to offer political views, or try to get people to vote for your candidate. The purpose of this series is to understand what Jesus' view is on the government and how Christians should view their engagement with the political system. The leader has the right to close any conversation that that is not rooted in a scriptural framework. This is not a time to talk about Republican or Democratic Parties and/or specific politicians.

Ice Breaker: Why is talking about the church and state a difficult conversation to talk about? How can talking this topic be made safe for everyone in the group tonight (ie. keep it focused on the scripture and focused on Jesus' view)

Scripture: *Read Matthew 5:13-16.* Why is talking about salt and light an important framework, in discussing the role between Church and State or Church and Government.

Read. MLK said, "The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state...it must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority." Martin Luther King, Jr., *Strength to Love*.

How does this quote change your understanding of the church as it relates to the state and more specifically your role in the participation of the governmental process?

Intimacy + Engagement = Worship

What happens when there is not intimacy with Jesus and only engagement with our culture and government? What happens if there is only intimacy with Jesus and no engagement?

Close in Prayer: