Leader Guide

We The People

Fall 2026 | Week 8

Message Date 11/1/2026

THE GOAL 

Leaders, before anything else, thank you. This is our last week of Life Groups before the break, and we could not have made it here without you. You make church possible. Your prayers, preparation, and open homes create space for people to be known and loved, and the way you lead reflects Jesus beautifully. We are so grateful for you.

This week, take time to celebrate what God has done this season. Thank your group, invite them to share where they've seen God at work, and end by thanking Him together. In a week full of headlines, gratitude keeps our eyes on His faithfulness.

This week Pastor Craig brought a message called "We The People," offering pastoral thoughts just days before our election. At its foundation, politics answers one simple question: How will we live together as a people? Sunday we looked at how Jesus stood apart from every political faction of His day, how Isaiah 9 reminds us that the government ultimately rests on His shoulders, how 1 Peter 2 calls us to honorable lives and respect for everyone, and how Matthew 22 anchors everything we do, including how we engage our nation, in loving God and loving our neighbor.

Some groups will meet before Election Day and others after, so people will walk in carrying very different things. Before the vote, some may feel anxious or simply weary of it all. After, some will be relieved or celebrating, some will be disappointed, and some will still be waiting on final results. Please be sensitive to that. Life Group is not the place to debate the campaign. It is a place to remember who we are and Whose we are, no matter what the results say.

Our goal is for every person to leave with their hope anchored in Jesus rather than in any election outcome, ready to respect and pray for our leaders, love the neighbors who see things differently, and live as honorable lights in our city, and to close out our season with grateful hearts for all God has done in and through our group.

MY STORY 

1) If your household held its own election tonight, what made-up office would you create, like Chief Snack Officer, Remote Control Commissioner, or Secretary of Thermostat Affairs, and who would win in a landslide?
2) What's something you are fiercely, maybe irrationally, loyal to, like a ketchup brand, a grocery store, a fast-food chain, or your side of the bed?

QUICK REVIEW

3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Isaiah 9:6–7 (NLT)

"[6]*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* [7]*His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!"*

4) Isaiah says, *"The government will rest on his shoulders,"* and "*his government and its peace will never end."* Sunday we heard that government was never designed to be our savior. Whatever the results of Tuesday's election, how does it shape your heart this week to know Whose shoulders the government ultimately rests on?

Elections matter, and it's good for us to care about them. But no candidate, party, or outcome can carry the weight that only Jesus can carry. If our side won, this passage keeps us humble; if our side lost, it keeps us from despair. The same King is on the throne Wednesday morning that was there Monday night. Invite your group to name one worry they can set back on His shoulders tonight.

5) Pastor Craig reminded us that Jesus was surrounded by political groups, the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Zealots, yet He never joined one. Instead, He stepped out in front and said, in effect, "This is where God is, join me here." Why do you think Jesus refused to align Himself with a faction, and where are you tempted to let a political identity speak louder than your identity in Him?

Jesus wasn't a political solution; He came as The solution, and joining a faction would have made Him smaller than He is. That doesn't mean our convictions or our votes don't matter. It means our first loyalty is to the Prince of Peace, and every other loyalty finds its place under Him. Scripture gently shows us that when politics becomes our identity, it starts to shape how we see people Jesus loves. Our groups may hold a range of views, and that's okay; we are family first.

1 Peter 2:13–17 (NLT)

"[13]*For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state,* [14]*or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right.*

[15]*It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you.* [16]*For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil.* [17]*Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king."*

6) Peter writes, *"Respect everyone… Fear God, and respect the king,"* and he wrote this to believers living under Roman emperors who did not honor Christ. Respecting leaders we voted for comes easily. What does honoring and praying for leaders look like when they aren't the ones we hoped would win?

Respect isn't the same as agreement, and Sunday we heard that this passage is a general statement, not a promise that everything a leader does will be right. Peter's readers lived under rulers far more hostile than anything we face, and he still invited them to show honor. Respect sounds like how we speak about leaders at the dinner table, how we post about them online, and whether we pray for them by name. We get to be people who disagree without dishonoring.

7) Verse 15 says, *"your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you."* Sunday we heard that those who speak against Christians should find us living honorable lives as citizens. What might honorable living look like for you this week, at work, online, or around the Thanksgiving table later this month?

The strongest answer to criticism isn't a sharper argument; it's a life that doesn't match the accusation. Honorable living can be as simple as being gracious with a coworker who is gloating or grieving, scrolling past the bait instead of firing back, or asking a relative a curious question instead of starting a debate. Peter reminds us we are free, and our freedom is meant for good. Consider one setting this week where your calm and kindness could quietly point to Jesus.

Matthew 22:37–40 (NLT)

"[37]Jesus replied, " 'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' [38]This is the first and greatest commandment. [39]A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' [40]The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.'"

8) Jesus says, *"The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."* Pastor Craig reminded us that everything God asks of us is anchored here, including how we handle politics. Who is a neighbor, friend, or family member who may feel very differently than you about this election, and how can you love them well this week?

It's easy to love our neighbor in theory and much harder when that neighbor voted differently. Jesus didn't add an exception clause. Loving them might look like listening without trying to win, checking in on someone who is discouraged, or simply refusing to let one election cost you a relationship. When we lead with love, we show that our hope isn't threatened by the results. Invite your group to name one person by first name and pray for them together.

9) Sunday we looked at Joseph, Daniel, Esther, and Nehemiah, people who loved God *"with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind"* while living under governments that weren't their own, and who stepped into whatever influence they had to bring about God's good. As people of hope, where might God be inviting you to step in and be a light in our community in the days ahead?

These heroes didn’t wait for perfect conditions to be faithful; they served, spoke up, and prayed right where they were. For us that might mean voting, serving at our kids’ school, getting to know our neighbors, volunteering, or simply showing up with hope when others are anxious. We don’t have to fix the whole nation. We get to be faithful in our corner of it, raise our families, enjoy God’s blessings, and trust that His hand is on us. People will need hope in the coming days, and we already have it.

CHAIR TIME TOOLS 

Reflection Questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

1) Ask God to show you where your hope has been resting lately, and invite Him to settle it back on Jesus, whose government and peace will never end.
2) Ask the Lord, “Is there anyone that I personally know that I have written off or spoken about with disrespect because of politics?” and ask Him to soften your heart toward them.
3) Pray by name for our national, state, and local leaders this week, and ask God, “Where would You have me be a light right where I live?”