

## Read

Read John 13:1 – 17.

## Discuss

- What is a hobby that you are passionate about?
- Dr. Tony Evans said, "Jesus did not come to take sides; he came to take over." What does this mean? How does this perspective affect how we engage in politics? What is the difference between being "political" and being "partisan," and what does it look like to be politically engaged as a Christ-follower in a deeply partisan culture?
- How do you feel about seeing yourself as a monarchist for King Jesus? Encouraged? Uncomfortable? Why?
- Christ-followers may disagree on different political issues, but our motives should all be the same: following the politics of Jesus. Why do our motives matter? How might the same motive play out in different political choices for Christ-followers?
- Read John 13:1 – 17. What stands out to you? What questions do you have about the text?
- Jesus intentionally gathered around himself people who were at opposite ends of the political spectrum. How can we respond to one another in love while holding different viewpoints on political issues?
- Think about people in your life who have different political views than you. Maybe you have recently argued or even parted ways with someone because of your different politics. How can you practice Jesus' style with these people? How might God be prompting you to "wash their feet"?

## Dig Deeper

If your group has extra time, read through and discuss our [Elder Board's statement about politics and Blackhawk](#). Here are a few questions to start your discussion:

- What are your reactions to this article?
- How do you weigh compromises and trade-offs as you vote and engage in the political process?
- What does it mean to influence our culture instead of battling it?

## Pray

No matter the outcome of this election, we know that Jesus is King. With this in mind, pray through some of these prompts as a group:

- *Pray for forgiveness for putting partisan politics before Jesus and for the animosity we might feel toward people we disagree with.*
- *Pray for God's spirit and wisdom in us as we engage in politics.*
- *Pray for God's love in us as we interact with the people we disagree with; pray that we would live out Jesus' style.*
- *Pray that our Blackhawk community, as well as the wider community of Christ-followers, would be united in Jesus.*
- *Pray for the public servants and politicians in office now and for those who will be in office after the election.*
- *Pray for God's kingdom to come here on earth as it is in heaven.*

### **Next Steps**

1. Reflect on your own political engagement. What are the biblical concepts that inform your political views? Set aside time this week to look through what the Bible has to say regarding various issues. Pray for wisdom as you do so.
2. Go to our [Next Steps blog](#) and take a look at the resources we have about politics and faith.