



HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

SOCIAL TIME (10-15 minutes)

Use the [This or That](#) icebreaker, choose from one of the other ice breakers on Emmanuel's [leader tools](#), or create your own.

CHECK-IN (15-20 minutes)

Ask the group what they learned after completing their action step. Last week's question was, "What areas of your life would be better if you controlled your anger? Going forward, what's your plan?"

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (45-60 minutes)

In our current political climate, the news highlights every political dispute and every emotionally charged soundbite. Because of this, it can be hard to keep our fear and anxiety in check. As we consider our country's future, we can't change our circumstances, but we can change our perspective.

1. The election is around the corner, and we will likely find ourselves in political conversations with family members, friends, and co-workers. When or where have you found yourself in a political conversation, and how do you generally respond?

Do you have any fear or anxiety about the outcome of this election? If so, please share.

2. While it isn't wrong to be loyal to our nation, our greatest loyalty should be to the kingdom of God. Read [John 18:36 \(NLT\)](#) and [Philippians 3:17-21 \(NIV\)](#).

Our first loyalty is to the kingdom of God, and our God-given mission is to influence others for His kingdom. What advice would you give to Christians who engage in polarized political discussions but desire to maintain influence for God's kingdom?

In what ways are you too focused on your kingdom? In what ways do you feel you could have a greater focus on God's Kingdom?

3. Read [Romans 13:1 \(NLT\)](#). Because God's sovereignty has allowed people to be in a position of authority, we are to submit to the governing authorities. How should this truth help us trust God in moments of political uncertainty?

Read [1 Timothy 2:1-2 \(NLT\)](#). Describe how prayer has the power to change our perspective even when we can't change our circumstances?

In what ways should we be praying for our country's leadership?

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4. You can find your elected officials by visiting [usa.gov](https://www.usa.gov).

What is your plan to actively engage in the ongoing electoral conversation yet still maintain influence for God's kingdom?

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- **Pray.** Make a list of your elected officials and pray for each of them this week.
- **Daily time with God.** Determine the type of routine you'd like to have to spend time learning about what pleases God. Here are some ways to do this:
 - o [Download the Emmanuel app](#) and read the One Year New Testament daily.
 - o [Download the YouVersion app](#) and find a devotion you can do daily.
 - o Purchase a [Jesus Calling](#) devotional and read it daily.
 - o Devote time daily to using the [Bible Project](#) and the video teaching offered.
- **Journal.** Instead of unleashing your thoughts about the political climate on others, make time to journal your thoughts and reflect. Keep negativity to yourself and work through why you are feeling this way.

FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW FOR THIS UPCOMING WEEK'S ACTION STEPS.

My action step is _____.

This coming week, I will encourage _____ to complete their action step.

Their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I will pray for the group's following prayer requests:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Give everyone in your group an index card. Ask them to write their name and action steps on one side and a prayer request on the other. When finished, have everyone pass their cards to the left. Everyone in the group now has someone to connect with throughout the coming week for three reasons:

- 1) To build the relationship
- 2) To encourage to accomplish their action step
- 3) To pray for in a specific way

Ask them to place the index card on their nightstand or another place that would allow them to see it and use it every day.



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GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

To determine how your group can serve together in the surrounding community, email Breanne Schafer, Emmanuel's Outreach Coordinator, at bschafer@eclife.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 30 | [Trivia Night For Singles](#) (for those 25 and older)

November 1 | [VERB](#)

November 6 | [Middle School Retreat](#)

November 19 | [1824](#)

December 14 | [Impact Team Night](#) (text TEAM to 65248 to register for this event)

More information on all of these events can be found at eclife.org.



MIDDLE SCHOOL OBJECT LESSON & GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Even though you are not quite old enough to participate in the voting process, everyone can feel the tension and witness strong emotions created during an election. You have leaders that give you direction on what to do every day, and that can create anxiety or tension for you too.

ACTIVITY:

We are going to play a good old fashion game of Leader Says! This is kind of like Simon says, but all of the leaders will be calling out directions. You will need to figure out which commands to follow (Either buddy up with other middle school groups at your location or select 2 students to give commands with the adult leader). Like Simon says, if a leader says to do something but does not say "Leader Says" before the command, you do not have to follow it. BUT if they say "Leader Says," and you don't follow the command you are out of the game.

Play a few rounds depending on time and try and come up with as many fun and crazy things as you can to do.

That was pretty awesome and fun. It was a little crazy at times and probably seemed almost impossible to follow the right commands. At times all the leaders were yelling out commands, and it was hard to figure out which ones you were supposed to follow. Eventually, you missed a command that you were supposed to follow, and you were out of the game.

This reminds me of what it can be like when people in our lives tell us what to do. We can get confused, not knowing whom we should listen to and whom we shouldn't listen to.

While our game is silly, our country's election is quite serious and can impact our day-to-day lives in the future. Who are people with authority in your life?

What are some things that they tell you to do that are hard to follow?

2. Sometimes it is hard when we are told to do things we don't really want to do. We are sometimes even told that it is ok not to listen to people who may have authority in our lives if we think we know better. The problem with this type of thinking is that God puts the people with authority in our lives. Read [Romans 13:1 \(NLT\)](#) together. Based on this verse, who has to listen to authorities in their lives?

What makes it hard for us to listen to the authorities in our lives and do what they ask us to do?

3. The struggle with respecting our authority isn't just a struggle for teens. The adults in your life might be struggling with that as they think about people that might be elected after we vote in the upcoming election.

If we trust God as the ultimate authority and seek to follow the things he teaches us in the Bible, how can that impact both you and the people around you?

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When we don't respect those put in authority over us, how can it hurt your ability to tell others about Jesus?

4. Read [Timothy 2:1-2](#). In this verse, we are told that we need to pray for those in authority over us. This can include parents, teachers, principals, pastors, and elected officials. Why do you think we should pray for those that are in authority?

(Give out a notecard or paper to each student.)

Who should you pray for this week? Write down 3 names of people in authority over you that you will pray for each day this week.

PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Give everyone in your group an index card. Ask them to write their name and action steps on one side and a prayer request on the other. When finished, have everyone pass their cards to the left. Everyone in the group now has someone to connect with throughout the coming week for three reasons:

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