

**BIBLE STUDY**

# Finding Balance in Divisive Times

NOVEMBER 2024

**PURPOSE**

To explore how our faith can guide us in handling polarising or divisive issues—especially around politics and other contentious topics—with wisdom and unity.

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**1. OPENING PRAYER (5 mins)**

Begin by asking God for a spirit of understanding, peace, and love as you navigate sensitive topics.

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**2. ICEBREAKER: SHARING EXPERIENCES (10 mins)**

Invite each person to briefly share a time they felt torn between different viewpoints (politics, community, family).

**Follow-up Question:** How did they respond, and what did they learn from it?

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**3. SCRIPTURE READING AND GROUP DISCUSSION:  
SEASONS AND WISDOM (20 mins)**

**Read:** Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

Discuss the concept of “a time for everything” and how some situations/ conversations with others call for patience and understanding, while others require truth and conviction.

**Questions to Discuss:**

How can we discern if a situation requires a gentle or firm approach?

How do we stay faithful to Jesus’ example in conversations on divisive topics?

**Read:** James 1:5

Focus on asking God for wisdom when situations seem unclear.

#### 4. EXPLORING UNITY IN DIVISIVE TIMES (15 mins)

**Read:** Ephesians 4:2–6

Reflect on Paul’s emphasis on humility, patience, and unity, and discuss how we can model this unity in today’s divided world.

**Questions:**

How can we stay unified even when we disagree?

How does our shared identity in Christ help us move beyond political or personal divides?

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#### 5. ACTIVITY: DIFFERENT BIBLICAL RESPONSES (15 mins)

**Objective:** To explore that different situations may require different responses.

**Instructions:** Break into small groups and find examples of diverse responses in the Bible:

*Example 1:* Jesus with the Pharisees (truth-telling) vs. Jesus with Zacchaeus (compassion)—why did He respond differently?

*Example 2:* Paul’s ministry to Gentiles vs. Jews—how did he adjust his message to fit each group?

Each group can share what they learned about discernment and adaptability in divisive situations.

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#### 6. PRACTICAL TAKEAWAYS AND CLOSING PRAYER (15 mins)

**Discussion:** Brainstorm ways to bring peace and understanding into divisive discussions.

**Suggestions:** Practise listening over debating, find common ground, and show grace over arguments.

**Closing Prayer:** Pray together, asking God for guidance, unity, and love in all conversations.

This outline encourages practical and thoughtful ways to approach difficult topics while keeping Christ’s example at the centre.

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