

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.

1. OPENING PRAYER (5 mins)

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

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?

**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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