

Application Guide

SPECIAL ELECTION EPISODE: FINDING COMMON GROUND



BOTTOM LINE:

Unity doesn't mean uniformity—Americans have the power to shape the direction of our nation by choosing not to allow differences to divide us.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- I. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike love their country, and many are tired and frustrated with today's political climate which is full of:
 - A. Fear-mongering
 - B. Name-calling
 - C. Relationship-destroying tactics
- II. **Good News:** There is a way forward.
 - A. As members of our nation, we must refuse to take the path of least resistance.
 1. Surround yourself with people who are different from you.
 2. Avoid complaining, yet sitting back idly.
 3. Avoid tuning out the noise.
 - B. **The way of Jesus is the way forward.**
 1. The way of Jesus is not about religion.
 2. The way of Jesus is **how we act toward one another**, putting others first—serving, honoring, and respecting our neighbors.
- III. As a nation, we will never fully agree on the solutions to our problems.
 - A. The way of Jesus provides a bridge that opens up the **optimal environment for discovering the best—often imperfect—solutions.**
 - B. Loving unconditionally while disagreeing politically provides the best context and environment for problem-solving.
 - C. Showing respect for and being kind to one another, doesn't address our nation's problems. But it **keeps us connected** so that we can better address our nation's problems.
- IV. Political and ideological alignment is not a prerequisite for honoring one another.
- V. **Unity is the win.**
 - A. The best thing we can do for our nation is to work together for the common good.
 - B. Division, disrespect, and fear-mongering are **choices** that divide us.
- VI. Live, love, and lead in a way that the people of this nation can regain the moral high ground and serve as the conscience of our nation.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION OR TEAM DISCUSSION

1. How have you experienced this political season?
2. What are your thoughts and observations of our country's political climate as a whole?
3. Who do you surround yourself with? Are they all the same as you, or do you have people who think and live differently than you?
4. How can you show love and respect to someone who thinks differently than you? Go out and do it.

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