

God's Word on Faithful Citizenship

(25 minutes)

Purpose

To break open what Scripture teaches about faithful citizenship

Supplies and Preparation

- Make copies of the handout "God's Word on Faithful Citizenship – Luke 10", one for every six table groups.
- Make copies of the handout "God's Word on Faithful Citizenship – Luke 16", one for every six table groups.
- Make copies of the handout "God's Word on Faithful Citizenship – Leviticus", one for every six table groups.
- Make copies of the handout "God's Word on Faithful Citizenship – Genesis", one for every six table groups.
- Make copies of the handout "God's Word on Faithful Citizenship – 1 John", one for every six table groups.
- Make copies of the handout "God's Word on Faithful Citizenship – Matthew", one for every six table groups.
- Have at least one Bible on each table.
- Have newsprint and assorted colored markers at each table.

Activity Plan

1. Introduce this activity using these or your own words [spoken text]:

One of the best sources to help us figure out how to be faithful citizens is the Bible. God's word is never static. Who knows what that means? Static means to stay the same. God's word is living and dynamic. It is meant for us today just as much as it was meant for the people living when the various books of the Bible were written.

We are going to look at several passages in the Old Testament and the New Testament and explore what they might teach us about being good Catholic Americans – faithful citizens.

2. Give each table group a handout. If you have six table groups, each group should get a different handout. If you have more than six table groups, give two tables the same handout. Direct participants to read their passage, answer the questions on the handout, and do the activity. Give them about 15 minutes to complete this exercise.
3. Bring the youth back into the large gathering. End this session by inviting them to share (in the large group) their slogans. Try to get one example of each of the six Scriptural texts.

Handout 1

God's Word on Faithful Citizenship—1 John

1. Read 1 John 3:11-18.
2. Discuss the following questions:
 - What is the guiding principle for all that we do in the public arena?
 - How can teens live out this principle in practical ways with regard to voting, endorsing a candidate, or deciding what stand to take on an issue?
3. Now create an advertisement, cartoon, symbol or campaign slogan which would help other people understand our Catholic teaching on this issue and be inspired to take action.

Handout 2

God's Word on Faithful Citizenship—Luke 10

1. Read Luke 10:25-37.
2. Discuss the following questions:
 - According to Jesus, what is the definition of “neighbor”?
 - Applying Jesus’ teaching to your life, who is your neighbor?
 - What are the implications for your participation in the political process?
 - What can adolescents do to participate?
3. Now create an advertisement, cartoon, symbol or campaign slogan which would help other people understand our Catholic teaching on this issue and be inspired to take action.

Handout 3

God's Word on Faithful Citizenship—Matthew

1. Read Matthew 25:31-46.
2. Discuss the following questions:
 - How does this passage connect to our Church's teaching that we should have a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable?
 - What does this mean for us when we are making decisions about which candidates or which laws to support?
 - What can families and adolescents do to ensure that our nation has a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable?
3. Now create an advertisement, cartoon, symbol or campaign slogan which would help other people understand our Catholic teaching on this issue and be inspired to take action.

Handout 4

God's Word on Faithful Citizenship--Leviticus

1. Read Leviticus 25:23-38.
2. Discuss the following questions:
 - What does this passage have to do with caring for God's creation?
 - How can we live out the values in this passage – as families and as individual teens?
3. Now create an advertisement, cartoon, symbol or campaign slogan which would help other people understand our Catholic teaching on this issue and be inspired to take action.

Handout 5

God's Word on Faithful Citizenship--Genesis

1. Read Genesis 1:26-31.
2. Discuss the following questions?
 - What does this passage teach us about why we so strongly uphold the life and dignity of the human person?
 - How can we live out this principle in practical ways – as families and as individual teens?
3. Now create an advertisement, cartoon, symbol or campaign slogan which would help other people understand our Catholic teaching on this issue and be inspired to take action.

Handout 6

God's Word on Faithful Citizenship—Luke 16

1. Read Luke 16:19-31.
2. Discuss the following questions:
 - Why did the rich man go to hell?
 - What does this teach us about what we need to pay attention to in public life?
 - When we say we are our brother's and sister's keepers, what does this mean for our daily lives – as families and as adolescents?
3. Now create an advertisement, cartoon, symbol or campaign slogan which would help other people understand our Catholic teaching on this issue and be inspired to take action.