

DISCUSSION GUIDE

How to Make America Great Again

Last Letter - Week 7

ICEBREAKER: When do you feel insecure?

OVERVIEW: The campaign slogan of a popular presidential candidate is “Make America Great Again.” But there are different opinions about what a great America would look like, and about how to achieve that greatness. Does the Bible offer an insight? Absolutely. In 2 Timothy 3 we can see clearly that **as sin increases, society breaks down**. Just as the Founding Fathers of America believed, a flourishing society requires a high level of virtue, and a high level of virtue demands a thriving church. In this discussion we will go deeper with how we can apply these important concepts to our current situation.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday’s message?)
2. Proverbs 11:11 says, “Upright citizens are good for a city and make it prosper, but the talk of the wicked tears it apart.” Why are upright citizens good for a city? How does the talk of the wicked tear a city apart?
3. Jeremiah 12:17 say, “But any nation who refuses to obey me will be uprooted and destroyed. I, the Lord, have spoken (see also Micah 5:15).” What do we do with this verse in 21st century America?
4. Read Jeremiah 29:7. What is the context of this verse? Do you think this verse applies to Christians, no matter where they live, or only to the Jews in the immediate context? What are some ways that we can work for the peace and prosperity of America?
5. As sin increases, society breaks down. Give examples of how you have observed this in our country.
6. Benjamin Franklin declared, “Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom.” James Madison said, “To suppose that any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people, is a chimerical idea.” George Washington added, “Virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government.” What did the Founding Fathers mean that virtue and morality were necessary for national prosperity, popular government, and freedom?
7. The Founding Fathers agreed that the Christian religion was indispensable for cultivating the necessary virtue for a flourishing society. What does the church need to do to continue to fulfill this essential role in society?
8. A flourishing society demands a high level of virtue, and a high level of virtue requires a thriving church. With these principles in mind, what can you personally do to make America great again?
9. Some Christians say that when pastors preach on political issues like abortion and homosexuality, and when Christians discuss politics on social media, and participate in boycotts against businesses like Target, it only hurts the cause of Christ. What do you think?
10. Why should Christians vote? Along with voting, what are other ways that we can engage in civics?

The Last Word: If the righteous do not vote, then there will be no vote for righteousness.