

LEADER GUIDE | WEEK ONE

Politics: The Way of Jesus | Bread of Life | week of February 11

INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

Politics can divide families, friendships, and even churches. It is easy to make claims about how Jesus would respond to the current political landscape and which way is the right way. If we aren't careful, political allegiances can dilute our Christian commitment. Our faith should influence our politics, not the other way around.

This four week series will explore:

Week One | No party or politician will satisfy like the Bread of Life.

Week Two | Your faith should influence your politics, not the other way around.

Week Three | Jesus will challenge your politics.

Week Four | Above all else, be people of peace.

ICE BREAKER + PRAYER

After the ice breaker question, begin your group time by opening the 2|42 App to view and pray for the online prayer requests. These can also be seen at 242community.com/prayer.

Praying for others shifts our hearts to remember that many of us are all going through hard moments. Rather than judge others for their actions and beliefs, we move to a posture of empathy. You can begin each week of this series praying for these requests if you would like.

SCRIPTURE AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

This weekend Tony taught about the yeast of the Pharisees. The Pharisees and Sadducees were the ruling religious Jewish leaders during Jesus' lifetime. They had put much effort into following God's law that they made laws to help them follow the law. What started as good intentions to follow God lead to coming up with their own opinions and ideas of what was right and wrong.

This week's lesson takes a look at one of the passages we explored during the weekend teaching and invites your group to do a word study on "yeast" in four different passages of the Bible by going online or using the YouVersion App. Looking at different passages about the same topic can help us better understand those ideas or concepts. See if your group notices any themes in looking at these different passages.

Just as yeast changes bread, small things change us. Discuss with the group what changes they've seen in their lives over time and what disciplines help them stay true to following Jesus. End the discussion time giving everyone 2-5 minutes of silence to quiet their hearts, reflect on what they have heard, listen to God, and think about the next steps He has for them. Have them share with the group how they will apply what God showed them.

new leader tip

It's okay to feel nervous about the potential for difficult conversations within your group discussion. This [ten minute video from Misha](#) shares three helpful tips you can do as a leader.

CLOSING PRAYER

End the group time again in prayer. This time pray for the requests within the group and that each person would apply and live out what God showed them during the discussion. Pray also for your community, state, and national leaders.

EXTRA INFO TO SHARE WITH YOUR GROUP

STEP ONE | Invite those newer to your group or newer to 2|42 to attend the next Step One class at your campus. They can learn more and RSVP at 242community.com/stepone

KIDS + STUDENTS CAMPS | Sign-ups are open now for [summer camps!](#)

CAMPUS SPECIFIC EVENTS | Share other upcoming events happening at your campus at 242community.com/events

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ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What adjectives would you use to describe our group?

PRAYER

Spend 3-5 minutes praying through some of the requests listed online at 242community.com/prayer.

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA

No party or politician will satisfy like the Bread of Life.

What do you remember from the weekend teaching?

SCRIPTURE + DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Have two volunteers read Matthew 16|1-12 in two different translations. After you've read the story, have 2 different group members retell the story in their own words.

1. What is your experience with yeast?
2. What do you think Jesus was communicating in this passage to His disciples?

The Bible references yeast many times both in the New and Old Testament. Do a word search online or through a Bible App and read 2 Old Testament references and 2 New Testament references.

3. Do you notice any common themes in these passages?
4. Though small, over time, yeast cells multiply and increase in number as they permeate dough. How have you seen small behavior changes or beliefs lead to something completely different over time, either good or bad?
5. How could our political preferences modify, change, or distract us from our pursuit of living like Jesus?
6. What practices, habits, or disciplines can help us become more aware of the "yeast" slipping into our lives?

Give everyone 2-5 minutes of silence to quiet their hearts, reflect on what they have heard, listen to God, and think about the next steps He has for them.

7. Share with the group how you will apply what God showed you during our discussion today.

PRAYER

Pray for each person in a focused way to:

- Lift up prayer requests
- Support each person to apply and live out what God showed them during the discussion.

Pray for the community, state, and national leaders.