

AMERICANITY



Week Two | One Strategy with One Enemy | 05.21-22.2022

Grow Deep Conversation Questions: Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

Series Recap: It seems like everything has become political, even Christianity. What was once loyalty to Jesus and his kingdom has become a mash-up of that and putting our faith in the nation of America. When we splice the two together, America and Christianity have become Americanity. So, how we can work for the good of our nation without worshipping our nation?

» Opening

(3 minutes)

- Introductions - This is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members.
- Housekeeping - Clarify expectations:
 - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting.
 - **Remember, there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - Open your time together in prayer.

» Introduction

(12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: What is an example (church or not) where you have felt unmistakable unity?
- Digging Deeper: What are some barriers that get created to our unity when we put politics in front of our faith?

» Observation | Read Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:1-4; 1 Timothy 6:6-9, 11-12, 17-19

(12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

» Key Principle | The church's spark should be better than our bark.

(12 minutes)

- What is an area of your life where your spiritual beliefs, words, and actions are not in harmony?
- What would it look like to daily cling to God in the midst of our current political landscape?

» We Spark through Steadiness | Read 1 Timothy 6:6-9; 1 Corinthians 15:57-58; Hebrews 13:5-6

(12 minutes)

- What is the correlation between temptation and destruction, contentment and gain?
- How does the claim that we are victorious and never forsaken encourage contentment and steadfastness in our faith?

» We Spark through Stamina | Reread Matthew 5:14-16; 1 Timothy 6:11-12; Isaiah 40:30-31

(12 minutes)

- Why is "persevered faith" such a strong witness to others? Explain why it is either abundant or lacking in our world today?
- What benefits are promised to those who wait on the Lord and shine for others to see?

» We Spark through Service | Reread 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Philippians 2:1-4; Isaiah 58:6-11

(12 minutes)

- What does it mean to be rich in good works? How does this naturally oppose selfish ambition?
- How does Isaiah correlate turning from earthly habits and serving others with freedom and blessing?

» Next Steps and Prayer |

(15 minutes)

- What does showing your divine spark in unity with other Christians make you think about doing? Or not doing?
- Close by praying for one another to remember to prioritize unity over uniformity throughout the remainder of this year.