

# CONVERSATION STARTER CARDS

How have your political leanings shifted over time? What were the factors that contributed to your change in perspective?

Are there times when your political engagement has felt like religious devotion competing with your allegiance to Jesus?

How does Jesus provide what each political religion promises but can't fulfill?

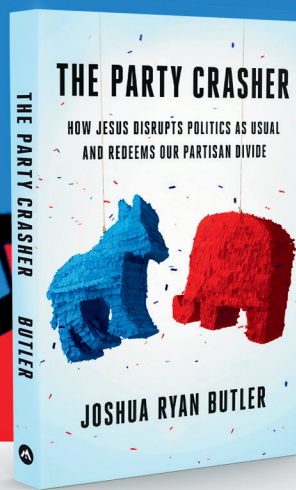
What ways can you ensure that your views are challenged by the biblical story rather than using the Bible to proof-text your predetermined positions?

Identify someone with whom you disagree strongly about politics. How might you interact more charitably and kindly the next time you see this person?

Do you give more time and attention to political pundits than to the words of Scripture?

What political issues do you tend to talk about most? How often do you bring those to God in prayer?

What does it look like to be a church where people lean in different directions but refuse to bow to the political idols?



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When have you experienced strained relationships due to political differences? How have you navigated these conflicts? Is there a step you can take to help repair a broken relationship?

How do we know when we are giving too much attention to a political leader?

In what areas do you need to remove the log from your own eye when it comes to political engagement and discourse?

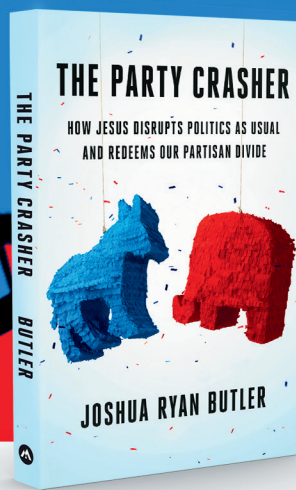
How do you consume information on a daily basis? What are your go-to sources for news and entertainment? How do those sources compare to your rhythms of engaging with Scripture?

What are some examples of modern-day idols that require sacrifice? What are some specific sacrifices that each political idol demands?

Where have you seen Christian friendships, churches, and organizations fracture along political fault lines? What were the issues? How did it happen? What are specific ways you could push against that trend?

How does political idolatry affect the witness of the church?

How is it possible for someone to display Christlike character in their personal life but act so differently when it comes to their conduct in the political arena? What factors contribute to this inconsistency?



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How should the public reading of Scripture and the sermon shape our understanding of the world? How should it counter the false stories and help us align our lives with the biblical story?

When was a time when your political leanings conflicted with the teachings of the Bible? How did you reconcile that conflict?

How is peacemaking central to the gospel, and what role does it play in the mission of Jesus and his followers?

How has Scripture been twisted at times to justify certain political ideologies? (Name a few examples.) How can a better understanding of the biblical story help to prevent this?

How can we recognize whether we're being shaped more by the biblical story or by propaganda (idols)?

How would forming a common table during the next election season reflect the character and teaching of Jesus to a watching world?

What's the simplest way you could love someone you know who leans toward a different political persuasion? Is there a next step toward them you want to take?

Is there a cultural leader who moves your heart more than Jesus?