Key passages

* Romans 13:1-7
* 1 Peter 2:13-17
* Jeremiah 29:1-13
* Mark 12:13-17
* Revelation 11
* *As a Christian I must take every effort to uphold righteousness in our society*
  + *If there are opportunities to vote for righteousness, then we should be engaged with that*
  + *Civic duty: separate from the responsibility to preach the gospel*

*Introduction*

* Structure for the seminar: looking at a few places where the bible speaks explicitly about political issues: the state, government, and Christians within that
  + We’ll then discuss how that shapes our priorities

*Passage 1: Jesus is Lord*

* Possible passage: John 12:12-16 (Triumphal entry)?
* Christ is King. Jesus is Lord.
  + Inherently political statement
    - But his kingdom is of a New Creation kind (John 18:36-37)
  + Christianity is super-political
    - Not tied to an ideology (American right, UK left)
    - Instead, at times we will have opportunities to engage on certain issues in the context of the Bible’s teaching
      * Most notably with our votes
  + Context for all of this: Christ is King. Jesus is Lord.
    - Our hope is not in politics

*Passage 2: Romans 13:1-7*

* With help from 1 Peter 2:13-17, Titus 3:1, John 19:8-11

*Passage 3: Jeremiah 29:1-13*

* 1. Be Responsible
* 2. Be Prayerful
* 3. We Should be careful
* 4. We should be hopeful
* The people are involuntarily a minority group in a new city
  + 597BC OT Jews are invaded by King Nebuchadnezzar
    - Takes many of the leaders as captives
    - (most left in Jerusalem)
  + C25 prophesies the end of Babylon
  + C28 says the fall will be in 2 years!
    - Jeremiah refutes this
  + C9: Jeremiah instructs followers how to live in our Babylon
* We also are a minority of exiles
* V4: it was God’s plan
  + Whatever our situation, we’ve been put there by God
  + 1 Peter 1:1, 17, 2:11
    - Strangers and aliens: ‘resident aliens’
    - Metaphorical for the whole Christian church
  + Phil 3:20
* V5-6
  + Build, settle, plant, eat
  + Marry, have children, increase in number
  + Creation norms still apply!
  + 1 Thess 4:11-12

Questions

* What is the role of the state and government?
  + What is the role of the state in God’s plan?
* What is the role of the citizen in the state?
  + What is the role of the Christian citizen in the state?
* How do we engage with politics?
  + How do we engage as a church?
  + How do we engage as individuals?
    - How should I vote?
* Where does providing social welfare fit into this?