

“Conversation Starters”

Valuable information for parents intentional about raising godly and responsible children.

Talking to Your Children about...Politics

Age Level – Lower School

Bible Verse – 1 Timothy 2:1-2

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

In a year which features a race for the president, there is usually a great deal of media coverage and tons of discussion about politics. The word *politics* refers to the governing of people – meaning that there are rules by which we all need to live for a healthy and productive community. As Christians we not only have the responsibility to select good people for these important positions, we also have the incredible opportunity to pray for those in “high positions.”

Question 1: What rules do you think are important for our community to function at its best? Some examples might be:

- Traffic laws – can you imagine the chaos that it would be if there were no stop signs or traffic lights? Do you think people would be kind and let others go ahead of them or would most people try to take advantage of the situation and go first?
- Food and Sanitation – can you imagine if restaurants didn’t have to cook their food correctly or could serve old and rotten food to customers?
- Private property – could you imagine if someone could come and take something that belonged to you and just say it was theirs?

Concept 1: You can see that laws and rules are important. It is just as important to select good people to make and enforce those laws. That’s what politics is all about – selecting good people to help make our community safe and successful.

Question 2: What do you think we should do to be active participants in the political process? Some examples might be:

- Vote for qualified, competent and Christian candidates at all levels of government.
- Financially support not only individual candidates, but also the party of your choice (you can begin to talk about why you are either a supporter or not of party politics in a generic manner).
- Pray for those in authority – not only the candidates that you support, but for everyone in a position of authority including local, state and federal positions (great conversation about federalism and the separation of powers concept so that power is not concentrated in the hands of one or a few).

Concept 2: As Christians, prayer is not only our most powerful tool, it is something that we can utilize everyday even when there is not an election! We can pray for wisdom for our leaders just as Solomon asked God for wisdom to lead and guide the nation of Israel. We can pray for safety and protection for our leaders. We can pray that those who don’t know the Lord would be presented with the good news of Jesus Christ and for those leaders who are believers to walk in a manner worthy of their calling.