

# “Conversation Starters”

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

## Talking to Your Children about...Politics

**Age Level** – Middle School

**Bible Verse** – Exodus 18:21

*Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people...*

The father-in-law of Moses was named Jethro. In this passage of Scripture, Jethro is offering some sage advice to Moses to help shoulder the burden of leading the nation of Israel – find some help! Jethro tells Moses not only to find help, but what kind of leader he should look for – think about each of these characteristics in light of your opportunity to vote for leaders for our country.

### **Qualification 1** – “able men”

**Conversation:** As Christians, sometimes we are prone to forget that character and morality aren’t the only criteria when selecting a candidate – that person needs to be able to DO the job as well! What type of things can a person demonstrate to show that they are capable of doing the job of an elected official (for example: being the President of the United States)? Does a person have to be a politician or an elected official previously?

### **Qualification 2** – “men who fear God”

**Conversation:** All things considered, I think it is important for our leaders to have a healthy fear and respect for God – it reminds them that not only are they accountable to “we the people,” but also to a higher power and authority. This helps when the “winds of change” begin to blow and popular opinion conflicts with Biblical truth. What sort of things would you look for in a person’s life and résumé that would demonstrate that they have a “fear of God?”

### **Qualification 3** – “who are trustworthy”

**Conversation:** This is one characteristic that our Framers were very interested in since they believed Lord Acton’s statement that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. A person needs to demonstrate that when given power that they will be judicious, thoughtful and careful. What things would you be looking for in a person to demonstrate that they are “trustworthy?”

### **Qualification 4** – “hate a bribe”

**Conversation:** I think this criterion can be demonstrated by a person who has had to work hard for something, someone who knows and appreciates the value of a dollar and is willing to protect the rights and opportunities of others to work hard as well. People who take shortcuts in their own lives are more apt to be willing to allow others to take shortcuts as well. What else do you think this statement could mean and how could you use it to select capable and qualified candidates?