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Bad News Antidote

Psalm 146 | Session 10.36

Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Thoroughly review all the referenced resources for this session in advance.
- Encourage your group to listen to the FaithElement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media)
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media)

Context

Tell the group that *"No matter the week or the day, it is not hard finding conflict between Christians on what kind of stands they should be taking on politically charged issues."* Then share [this story](#) and [this one](#) on opposite sides of an issue

Ask:

- As Christians, how do we reconcile the actions of our leaders who seem to follow or not follow Christ's teachings?
- In what ways does it affect the ability of non-Christians to listen to our message when they see Christians not able to agree on basic principles of caring for others?
- What other examples can you think of that demonstrate this conflict?
- Given our inherent weaknesses, why do we persist in putting faith in human leaders instead of following God's commands?

Content

Read [Psalm 146](#), and watch the Bible Background Video for this session.

Continue by asking:

- Where does the Psalmist clarify what we are to do, who is happy, and what the Lord will do?
- What might have inspired the different sections of this psalm?
- Who do you think of when hearing the Psalmist talk about setting free, upholding the orphans and widows, and ruining the wicked?
- If this psalm was a popular contemporary song, where would you most expect to hear it played and why?

Closure

Share "One of Us" and ask:

- Assuming that we know that God expects us to stand for something, in what ways could seeing our fellow human beings as reflections of God help us to make bold decisions?
- If the Psalmist is so clear on our limitations and who the Lord supports, why is it so hard today to do that, especially as Christians?
- What changes do we need to make in our walk in Christ to follow these principles?
- If "God is where we see justice at work in the world." as Nikki says, where is God at work in our lives and where is God calling us to take part in God's work of loving the world?

Close with a prayer.

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