

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

The After Party Message Series

The Combatant

RVCC Parkland - Week of October 6

RVCC Graham - Week of October 13

¹ Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. (Matthew 10:1-4)

1. Which of the three postures—exhausted, combative, or cynical—do you most resonate with, and why? How has this posture impacted your relationships or view of politics?
2. How do you think Jesus would respond to the current political climate, based on what you know of his teachings? How does this challenge or affirm your own response?
3. In Matthew 10:1-4, Jesus calls both Simon the Zealot and Matthew the Tax Collector—two men with radically opposing views—to follow Him. What does this reveal about Jesus' heart for unity and how should this shape our approach to loving others, even those we deeply disagree with, as His disciples today?
4. How do you process the tension between standing firm in your convictions and remaining open to the possibility that you could be wrong? How does humility shape this process?
5. Have you ever changed your mind about a political opinion? What helped you recognize you were wrong, and how did that experience shape your approach to future conversations?

³⁴ A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (John 13:34-35).

6. John 13:34-35 teaches that our love for others shows that we belong to Jesus. Do you think people with different political views can see Jesus in the way you treat them? What might you need to change for your attitude and actions to better reflect His love?



RAINIER VIEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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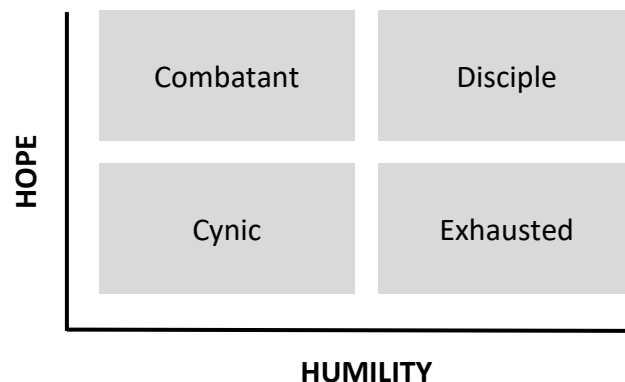
The Exhausted

RVCC Graham - Week of October 6

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1. What do you think is one of the biggest reasons why so many find election seasons so exhausting?

Consider the chart:



2. Which quadrant best describes you right now? Why did you choose that spot?
3. What makes it challenging to choose both humility and hope consistently?
4. Read Luke 17:18-20. Imagine being in John the Baptist's position. You are in jail, cut off from everyone else, with no ability to know what's really going on. What would you be thinking if you were in John's position?
5. Read Luke 17:21-23. Jesus' answer seems to be sufficient for John. Why do you think that encouraged John?
6. Would simply hearing Jesus' answer second hand be enough for you to remain hopeful? Why or why not?
7. In the parallel account of this moment in Matthew 11, we see some of Jesus most encouraging teaching. Read Matthew 11:28-30. What do those words of Jesus mean to you right now? How can they be a comfort that keeps you hopeful?



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As a group, type “humble” or “humility” into your search bar on your Bible app. Read 5-7 various verses that stand out to you about this character quality.

8. Why do you think God wants us to focus on our humility and being humble? How does this contrast with the way the world encourages us to act or think (e.g., “I earned this; I have to promote myself to get ahead”, etc.).

The formative practice we suggest for those of us feeling exhaustion in this season is to rest, then reengage. Two simple starting places are to:

- Choose a predetermined limit for our news consumption
- Pick your news intake intentionally

9. Do you need to implement one of these in your life more fully right now? Or is there another way you need to practice rest from the never-ending-ness of the anger and division of the election season?

Close by praying for your group members to always choose allegiance to Jesus first above all other commitments and identities.