



GROUP ICE BREAKER

Answer this question: I was (or would have been) voted “Most Likely To _____” in high school and explain why.

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

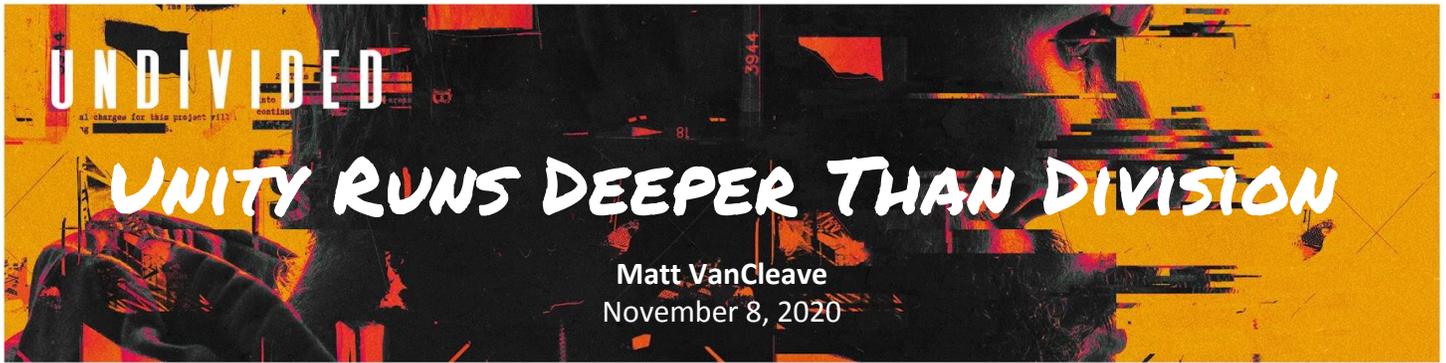
- I will commit to the work of peacemaking.
- I will seek God's highest good for others.
- I will take a first step towards someone I don't agree with.
- I will build a bridge with someone who holds different views than my own.
- I will advance God's kingdom before my personal cause.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

We're in a series called Undivided to give us hope in the midst of the election, where there is division in our country, that we can be undivided as a church. There is a unity that runs deeper than division when we ground our lives in something more solid than any particular political ideology or power. There is a foundation we can operate from that will allow us to give peace and compassion to the people around us. Back in Israel's history, there was the first election, when Israel occupied the Promised Land, and they were offered the chance by God to be this noble experiment, to live freely in a community of loving people under God. The people didn't want to surrender, so they chose a king. A lot of the time, if you refuse to take from God what God wants for you, God will allow you to have what you want. But there is the greater election, the one that will happen in your heart. You will decide who will rule your life. There are two names on the ballot, “God” and “Me.” If you choose “me” your life is all about you, but if you choose “God,” you get to be part of a kingdom that will never end. So let's choose to be beacons of light where there is so much darkness going on.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Matt said that there is a “unity that runs deeper than division.” How would you describe that unity? What's one thing you can do to make that unity a reality in one relationship of yours this week?
2. Read 1 Samuel 8:1-9. Why did the people of Israel want a king rather than Samuel's sons? What was God's response? In what ways are we tempted to choose the same in our lives today?
3. There are times God will allow you to have what you want rather than his desire for you, allowing us to learn the hard lessons of life. Share with the group a time in your life where you chose your way only to learn that God had something better for you.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)

4. Read Isaiah 9:6-7 and John 18:33-36. How does the government described in these verses differ from the governments of today? What is God offering to us in his government?
5. Read Philippians 2:5-8. What are the mindsets of Jesus described in these verses? How would relationships in your life change if you took on the same mindsets?
6. How does the knowledge that Jesus, being raised from the dead, now sitting at the right hand of God, is above all earthly powers, authorities and governments impact your mindset of elections?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will ground my life in Christ and his teachings, not a political ideology.
- I will have the same mindset in me that was in Jesus Christ.
- I will be civil toward those who I disagree with politically.
- I will be a peacemaker in a divided society.
- I will extend compassion and love to those around me.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- 1 Samuel 8:4-22
- Isaiah 9:6-7
- John 18:33-40
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Ephesians 1:20-23