



SMALL GROUP SESSION PACK: Christian Nationalism & the Gospel

SESSION 1 — What Is Christian Nationalism?

(Handout A1) — What Is Christian Nationalism?

Christian nationalism is an ideology that blends Christian identity with the identity of a nation. It assumes:

1. That a nation should be defined by one interpretation of Christianity.
2. That national power should enforce or reflect that interpretation.
3. That dissent or difference is disloyal to faith.

This is different from:

- ✓ Christians engaging thoughtfully with politics
- ✓ Loving neighbour regardless of identity
- ✓ Citizens voting with conscience

OPENING QUESTIONS (10 min)

1. What did you notice about faith in public life this week?
2. When is faith most helpful in public conversations?

SCRIPTURE (READ ALOUD)

Acts 17:22–31

- Focus: Paul engages thoughtfully with a culture very different from his own.
- Reflect: Paul sought understanding before agreement.

DISCUSSION (20 min)

1. What assumptions about faith and nation are in this passage?
2. How is Paul different from a nationalist approach?

HOMEWORK

- Find one headline from the last week that blends faith and nation.
- Bring it next week.



SESSION 2 — Identity in Christ vs Identity in Culture

(Handout A2)— Identity in Christ

The Bible says our first identity is in Christ:

“There is no Jew nor Greek ... for all are one in Christ Jesus.”

(Galatians 3:28)

Our secondary identities (culture, nationality) are real, but not ultimate.

OPENING (10 min)

- Share one news/observation about identity and faith.

READ TOGETHER

Galatians 3:26–29

Reflective Prompts:

1. Does culture shape how you see church and faith? How?
2. What happens when culture replaces Christ as centre?

GROUP DISCUSSION (20 min)

1. How might this relate to Lincolnshire churches?
2. When have you felt pressured to match your faith to cultural norms?

RESOURCE EXTRACT (from Sojourners Guide)

Christian nationalism simplifies faith into loyalty. The gospel calls us to love neighbours even when different.

HOMEWORK

- Journal: How is your identity shaped by faith vs culture?

SESSION 3 — History & Context

Handout A3 — Brief Timeline

- Early Church: Faith detached from empire



- Constantine (4th C): First major church–state union
- Reformation: National churches distinct from Rome
- Modernity: Democracy + secularism
- Today: New debates about identity, belonging, and faith

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:15–22

“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s... to God what is God’s.”

Discussion (25 min)

1. What does Jesus teach about authority?
2. How does this challenge nationalist impulses?

APPLICATION

- When faith and nation mix in headlines, can we ask:

“Is this allegiance biblical — or cultural?”

SESSION 4 — Spotting Distortions in Media & Conversation

Activity — Headline Cards (Printed or Projected)

Headline A

“Christian Values at Risk as Government Changes Voting Rules”

Headline B

“Church Group Says: ‘Britain Must Return to Biblical Morality’”

Headline C

“Local Pastor Warns Immigrants Undermine Christian Identity”

Discussion Questions (pairs)

1. Does this blend faith and national identity?
2. If so, how?

3. What would a gospel-centred response look like?

SCRIPTURE

James 2:1–9

- Focus: Partiality and exclusion hurt the body of Christ.

SESSION 5 — The Church's Faithful Response

Brainstorm Sheet (Printed)

WORSHIP LIFE

Inclusive prayers

Sermon themes: grace, neighbour, unity

COMMUNITY PRESENCE

Community dinners

Open forums

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Welcome team reflections

Mixed group conversations

MEDIA/SOCIAL

Clear tone guidelines

Non-partisan posts

GROUP WORK (30 min)

Pick one area above and design:

- a weekly activity
- a discussion theme
- a simple prayer focus



SESSION 6 — Commitment & Action

Church Action Plan (Handout A4)

Name of Church: _____

Focus Area (A–D): _____

Goal: _____

Actions (3):

1. ---

2. ---

3. ---

Who's Responsible: _____

Timeline: _____

Resources Required: _____

CLOSING PRAYER

“We pray that Christ’s love will lead, our minds be renewed, and our communities flourish in grace and truth.”
