

**November 15, 2020**

## **Worship as the Church**

**Matthew 18:15-20; Hebrews 10:19-25**

The day I sit to write today's Current Events Supplement is November 3, 2020, Election Day. At this time, I have no idea what the election results will be. I don't know which party will come out victorious in any of the races. What I do know is that the months leading up to this day have been some of the most contentious I can remember. The vitriol has been epic, both on- and offline. Even in my quiet neighborhood, dueling yard signs and pithy bumper stickers seem to create an air of derision and competition. It is a divisive time.

The student book author writes of times like these in this week's lesson. People disagree. They say hurtful things to one another. They sin against one another. As Christians, our code of conduct is clearly laid out throughout the Bible. "And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24). But even Christians falter. Fortunately, we have one another and our church and our worship of God to remind us of our calling. "Worship lifts us out of ourselves. We worship God primarily because of who God is, not because we want our needs met. Worship does bless us in many ways, but it should point us to God."<sup>1</sup>

God is steadfast. God claims us as God's own. Earthly divisions and conflicts are no match for the Creator. In contentious times like election season, indeed in all times, we should lift up our eyes to focus on the one who redeemed us all, regardless of party lines. "These transcendent themes can raise our sights beyond our disputes and disagreements. God's transcendence can empower us to keep going when our energy fails. In worship, we can lose ourselves in the grandeur, mystery, and wonder of God."<sup>2</sup> When you read this, election day will be over. Ask God to help you be the salt and the light your community needs.

1. When have you been at odds with someone you love on an issue? How did you resolve it?
2. In what ways can Christians foster peace in a time of division?
3. Read Matthew 5:13-14. What does it mean to you to be "the salt and the light"?

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<sup>1</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Fall 2020, by Chuck Aaron (Cokesbury, 2020); page 113.

<sup>2</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*; page 113.