

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

One Nation Under God: "In God We Trust"

Aloha everyone, I'm Mark if we haven't met, and today we are kicking off a brand new series called, One Nation Under God. In this series we will be talking about the **Government Sphere**. Dun-dun-dun!

For those of you who are new to the Church, we used to do a series every summer called Blockbuster Lessons from the Movies, anyone remember that series? It was a fun series where we'd take some of the biggest movies that year (*Top Gun & Jurassic World*) and use them as modern-day parables to teach Biblical truths. As a movie-goer I used to look forward to that series every year! But some Pastors, started complaining saying, "I'm not a movie-goer, I only like sports, there's no good movies out." So this summer we're talking about GOVERNMENT and POLITICS, you're welcome! You'll have to wait until next summer to hear my message on *Thor: Love and Thunder*.

In all seriousness, I am extremely excited about this series because our aim is to come away from this time with a Biblical Perspective on what is happening in our nation. Our gospel is not liberal or conservative, it is not republican or democrat, it's not even American! The message of the Kingdom is not of this world so please hear my heart – My prayer is that this series would not offend anybody, my prayer is that this series would offend everybody! Seriously! I'm praying that all of us would be challenged in the way we engage Government and the way we **Own our Roles** as Christians living in America. I want to encourage you to lean in to what the Holy Spirit is speaking to you. Don't worry about the person to your left and to your right, or if that person leans left or to the right! Focus on what the Holy Spirit is saying to you. Amen?

In Week 1, I will give you a road map of everything we will cover throughout our series and we'll talk about **Giving God Control** in the **Government Sphere**. Next week, we'll commemorate Independence Day and Pastor Theresa will help us view the birth of our nation and the work of the founding fathers through a Biblical lens. In Week 3, we shift to **Owning My Role** as Pastor Earl shares a Biblical perspective on our personal rights and freedoms and the role each of us plays as believers today. In Weeks 4 & 5, you let us know which of the hottest topics facing our nation you wanted to hear about and we will be tackling them from a Biblical standpoint as we return to the panel format to hear about how we should respond to some of the toughest issues today. In those two weeks, you will register for a whole chair but you'll only be using the edge of it because these panels will have you on the edge of your seat! And in Week 6, we will conclude our series with a vision to **Make Life Whole**. The only thing missing from this series is a fun catchphrase. "Shalom-ie my Homies" was a classic. I miss it already.