A Primer on Addressing Current Events in Small Groups

First things first: cover your group in prayer. From the beginning, set the tone of how the conversation will go—e.g. our goal is to be open and frank, while practicing discernment.

Regarding conversation in many different contexts…one key question I've been reflecting on is this:
"Why am I speaking? What am I trying to achieve with this comment, observation, or question?"

Asking yourself this question, and encouraging others in your group to do the same helps us pause and ensure we're "taking every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5). Some observations that might arise then…"Am I just venting? Am I feeling the weight of spiritual warfare? Or am I seeking to build up the group in Christ?"

I firmly believe a healthy Small Group should be a safe place to engage current events in a God-honoring way. Where else will people process these things with Biblical wisdom? But doing this well isn't easy. That's why Small Group leaders are not just facilitators—they are ministry leaders.

We must prepare ourselves to allow room for the Spirit to move in people's lives and in the group meeting, not exercising too much control. And at the same time, seeking His guidance for when it's time to step up, step in and lead.

Asking "What are we trying to do here?" provides much-needed clarity, direction, and intentionality for the conversation. Ultimately, it's about helping people focus on Christ and trust how He will direct their paths.

—Aaron

Leader Application

- Begin your next meeting with prayer, asking God for discernment in conversations.
- If a current event comes up, pause and ask the group: *"Why are we bringing this up? What do we want to accomplish in light of Christ?"*
- As necessary, guide and direct the discussion

- After the meeting, reflect: Did our conversation honor the Lord and build others up?