**Government’s Role according to the Bible:**

Research – Review scripture from previous session and watch Truth Project Lesson 9

Reason – Engage in the activities below

Relate – Present information with personal example from each group

Record – Document learning in spaces below

We understand that God has created a number of institutions and that each of these have specific areas of responsibility, influence and authority. Today, we’re going to look at this in a little more in-depth and we’re going to start with another video from the *Truth Project*.

Video Truth Project Lesson 9 “The State”

Paraphrase:

Romans 13:1-4

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1 Peter 2:13-14 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 2:14 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Draw Biblical View of jurisdiction and authority**

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**Draw non-Biblical View of jurisdiction and authority (Humanist, Socialist, Marxist, Big Government)**

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**Activity:** (Two groups of 3-5 participants with topic #1, Two groups of 3-5 participants with topic #2)

The groups each discuss their topics for 15 minutes and give the examples requested. Then each group will have a representative present their findings back to the whole group for three minutes each.

Possible answers, in red below, are not in the participants’ notebooks

1. Two roles of government and five examples of each:

Punish evil: imprisonment, restitution requirements, loss of privileges, capital punishment, fines, military might, increased regulation/audits, take property

Praise good: recognition, certifications for business, laws promoting freedom, laws protecting life, liberty and property, encourage support of others, reward contracts (for support of law enforcement, security, justice)

Definitions of good and evil = Only 1 Truth - Laws and Regulations must have a basis

1. Examples of situations where the government has taken the role of other spheres as designed by God:
* Education of children (Family – Proverbs 22:6)
* Welfare (Individuals/Church/Volunteer Organizations – John 3:17/I Timothy 5:3-10,16/II Thessalonians 3:6-12/ 2 Corinthians 9:7)
* Healthcare (Church/Volunteer Organizations – James 5:13-15/Matthew 10:8-11)
* Disaster relief (Individual/Volunteer Organizations – 2 Corinthians 8/Acts 11:27-30)
* Bank bailouts (Business – Proverbs 13:11, Proverbs 28:6) Leviticus 19:36 – Government should put in place regulations to reduce the potential need
* Retirement/elderly care (Family - Luke 14:28-30, 1 Tim 5:4&8, Mark 7:9-13)
* Hate crimes (Church – Matthew 5:21-22)

**\**Additional group question if time allows:***

What types of taxes are proper? Taxes to fund - law enforcement, military, regulatory, public commons

Which of the examples are in direct violation of the Bible? Taxes to redistribution wealth or take responsibility from other spheres.

Worksheet: Label the columns below with the proper spheres of authority (Church, Family, Government, Individual/Voluntary Organization, Business) and complete the blank sections with the responsibility of the missing sphere. This is a high-level view only – it could be significantly expanded.

Portions in red are not in participants’ notebooks.

Spheres of Influence/Authority

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Situation | Family | Indiv/VO | Business | Government | Church |
| People live in poverty | Teach children to care for others (Proverbs 22:6) | Relieve hunger by providing food (Acts 6:2) Opportunities to work for help (CARE Help) | Create opportunities for people to labor for their own food (Leviticus 19:10, 2 Thessalonians 3:10) | Ensure security for distribution of food, safe work and education environments (2 Corinthians 3:17) | Teach adults and hold them accountable to serving one another (Luke 3:10) |
| People steal from each other | Administer discipline early in life (Proverbs 13:24) | Neighborhood watch (Ecclesiastes 4:12) | Create opportunities for gain through labor (1Corinthians 9:9-10, Ephesians 4:8) | Administer justice (Romans 13:4) | Point people to Christ for forgiveness & teach biblical concept of work (Matthew 18:15-17) |
| Elderly need care | Children take care of parents (1 Tim 5:8) | Non-profit programs to support those who have no children | For-profit programs to meet elderly needs – nursing homes, Adult Daily Living | Regulatory | Take care of true widows and orphans (1 Timothy 5:1-25) |
| Children need education | Instruction of the father Proverbs 1:8-9 | Families support Christian Education | Hire good students, have internship programs, donate supplies, equipment | Recognize the best education, punish those who take advantage | Provide instruction, materials, support |
| Traffic problems | Provide good examples at home (Ephesians 6:4) | Lobby for new regulations, clean up right-of-ways, talk to media  | Driving schools, Road maintenance | Driver’s License, tickets/fines, regulations  | Teach people requirements to obey the law (1 Peter 2:13-17) |
| Declining populations | Procreation (Genesis 1:28) | Informational campaigns | Offer maternity leave, programs for summer work | Family tax credits | Family planning, marriage counseling |
| Potential Terrorist Attacks | Protection (Ephesians 5:25) | Bring attention to the problem | Create protection and preparation supplies for purchase | Provide for security (Obadiah 1:11) | Declare His Glory among the nations (Ps 96:3)  |

**Two models of charitable giving – from *Government Takes All* by Dr. Max Lyons 6:**

(Information in red does not appear in participants’ notebooks)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Biblical** | **Un-Biblical** |
| Personal aid – a knowledge of the individual you are assisting | Impersonal aid through bureaucrats |
| Character issues addressed | No consideration of lifestyle choices and character |
| Spiritual issues primary | Physical needs primary, spiritual needs ignored |
| Infirmed treated differently from able bodied | Blurred lines between need and want |
| Does not subsidize sinful behavior | Rewards sinful behavior |
| Requires family members to be the safety net | No obligation for family to be involved |