



HOW TO VOTE WITH CONFIDENCE

WEEKLY ACTION STEP

Text the word "First" to 317-350-1996 to join us on the Faith First Journey.

Take two days this week and write down your prayer requests. Save what you wrote so you can look back later and reflect on how God has been faithful in your life.

To receive a copy for free, text "BIBLE" to 317-350-1996.

BIG IDEA

When people let you down, Almighty God can hold you up.

SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 146 both before and aloud during your meeting.

OPENER

Have you ever experienced the scary feeling of having something that you thought would support you give way?

QUESTIONS

1. Psalm 146:3 says, "Don't put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there." Think back to times when you've put your trust in something other than God. Make a list of a few of those things or people and write how they let you down. What did you learn from these experiences?
2. We know God has ordained who the next leader of our country will be, and that we need to serve God first, independent of whether that leader is Godly. Based on this, how should we specifically pray for our nation at this time?
3. Give two reasons why you shouldn't put your hope in people (see Psalm 146:4)
4. "Happy" or "blessed" are the words Scripture uses repeatedly to describe those who look to God daily to be their hope and their help. What can you do to look towards God so that these words can be used to describe you?
5. In his message, Pastor John tells us that the Hebrew word for "Praise the Lord" is, "Hallelujah." Write down some reasons why you can say, "Hallelujah" today.
6. Psalm 146 tells us that God gives food to the hungry, sets prisoners free and gives sight to the blind. How has God done each of these for you? (Think spiritually, not literally)

**TAKEAWAY**

- Don't put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there.
- Hope in God for your daily desires. Cry for His help in your deepest crisis. Determine now to make God your hope and help for this week.
- You get blessed by looking to God as your help.
- No matter who is in the White House, God is our true leader and is always with us.

REFERENCES

Isaiah 26:3 Matthew 22:37 Romans 13:1-2 Hebrews 12:28 1 Peter 2:13-14

Psalms that mention happiness/joyfulness/blessedness: Psalm 1:1, 2:12, 32:1-2, 33:12, 34:8, 40:4, 41:1, 65:4, 84:4-5; 84:12, 89:15, 94:12, 106:3, 112:1, 119:1-2, 127:5, 128:1-2, 137:8-9, 144:15, 146:5.

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read Daniel 3. In that chapter we learn that King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue in his image and required all the people of the kingdom to bow down to it. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not worship the golden statue, resulting in unpleasant consequences, but God prevailed and all three were saved! In our country, no matter who is in the White House, citizens are not bound to behave or speak as the President does. However, as Christians, we are bound to obey the laws they enact, unless they violate God's laws. Using the example above, how do you believe you would respond if required to violate scriptural principles?
- Review the list of "7 reasons" below. Using your concordance or cross references find an additional verse for each of the 7 reasons in your Bible. Make sure each verse you select conveys the same characteristic of God as the one provided below.

7 reasons to look to God alone for your hope and help in Psalm 146:

 - He is more powerful than any person you can hope in (146:6a)
 - He is more faithful than any person you can hope in (146:6b)
 - He will outlive any person or nation you can hope in (146:6c)
 - He upholds you when you are oppressed (146:7a)
 - He feeds you when you are hungry (146:7b)
 - He sets you free when you're imprisoned (146:7c)
 - He will bring perfect justice and peace to the oppressed (146:7c)
- In America today, people rely on themselves or others to correct problems, change attitudes and few are seeking the Lord's will. As Christians, what are we called to do and how can we impact the problems in our culture, regardless of who is in the White House? Discuss how you know you are following God's will and not your own desires.