

# REDEEMER KIDS

## People, Politics and our Children

As if there have not been enough decisions to make this year for our kids, enough challenges to navigate and enough hard talks about how things are going to be moving forward; now, we have the 2020 Presidential election permeating our lives through conversations, billboards, social media and political ads. It's important that we take this chance to help our kids understand what is going on and why this is happening. We have a great opportunity to lead our kids now so that they lead others to a kinder world. Here are **5 things** we hope will guide and help you as you disciple your children.

1. **Pray!** The most important thing you can do is pray. Pray for your time together as a family and for a focused time free of distractions. Pray for unity within your family as you learn together and for understanding of what you will discuss. Pray for our leaders.
2. **Let them talk.** Ask your kids what they see, how they feel about it and help them express what they're feeling. They may be oblivious to what is going on or they may be more stressed out about it than they or you realize. Give space for them to think through and process, even the little ones. This may be an ongoing conversation as they think through their own experiences.  
Ask questions about what they have seen. Are their friends talking about it in school? How do they understand the election process? Why is it important? What makes this year different? What do the candidates believe?
3. **Lead with love.** Emphasize our desire to love our neighbor and show them how to have honest, respectful dialogue. Jesus' greatest commandment is to love God and love others. (Mark 12) That means understanding someone has different viewpoints and perspective than you, and still being their friend and choosing to be kind. This is best taught through modeling. Help your kids understand why people get so upset about politics, and lead them to understand how to see people before their opinions.  
If you have watched the debates, use that example to teach them about respecting others and letting people speak, even when you disagree. Talking over someone else is never kind. Let others be heard.
4. **Balance gracefully.** Empower your kids and protect them, too. This quote from Valerie Kadera, licensed marriage and family therapist, says it all. "I think ultimately our job as parents is to keep our kids safe, but protecting them from everything is not safe because ultimately, they're going to have to be in the world." Help kids form their own opinions.
5. **Lead them to Jesus.** Remind them who is in control. No matter who is in office, Jesus sits on the throne and "never slumbers nor sleeps" (Psalm 121) in His watch over His children. No matter what, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords is in control.