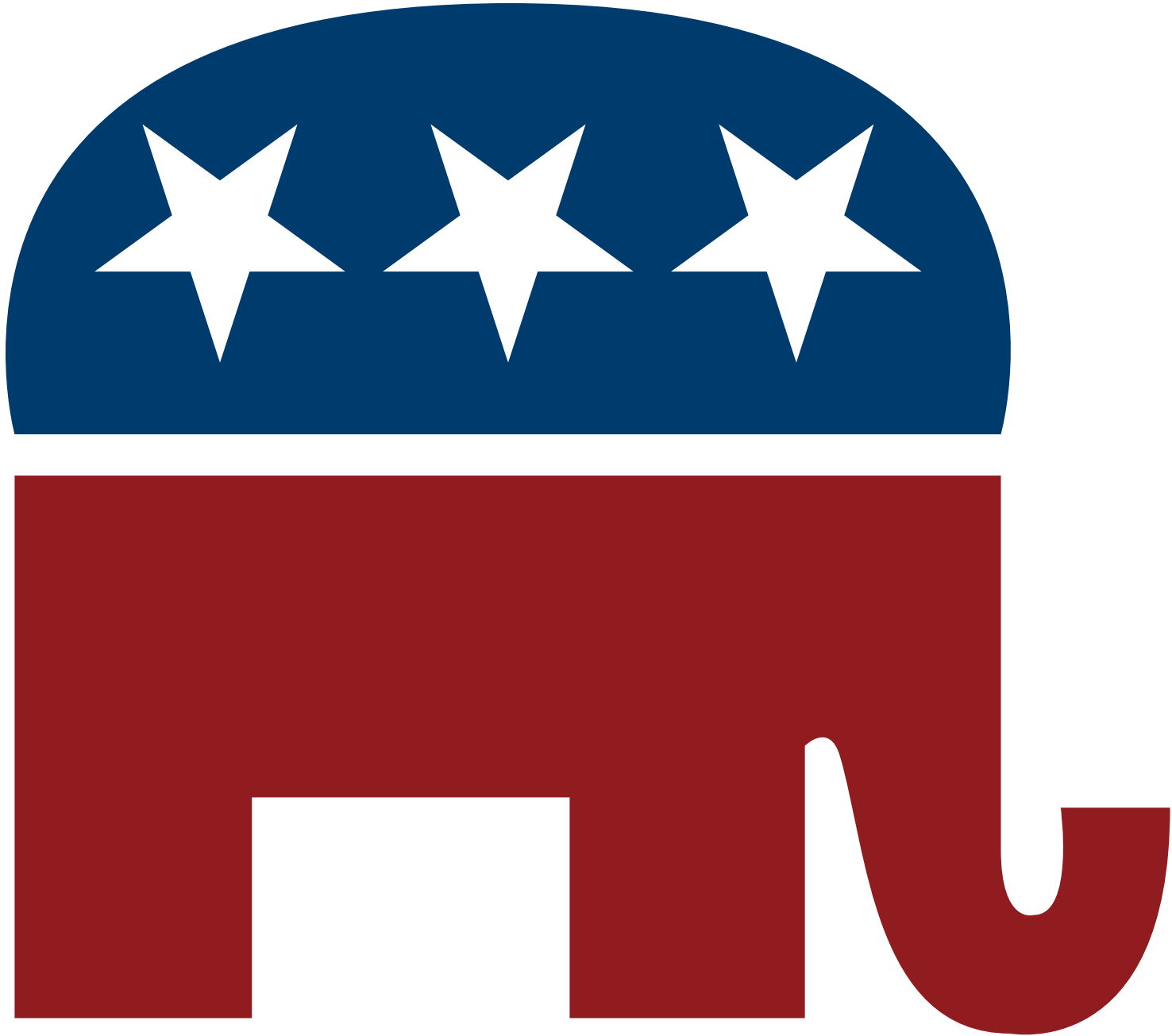
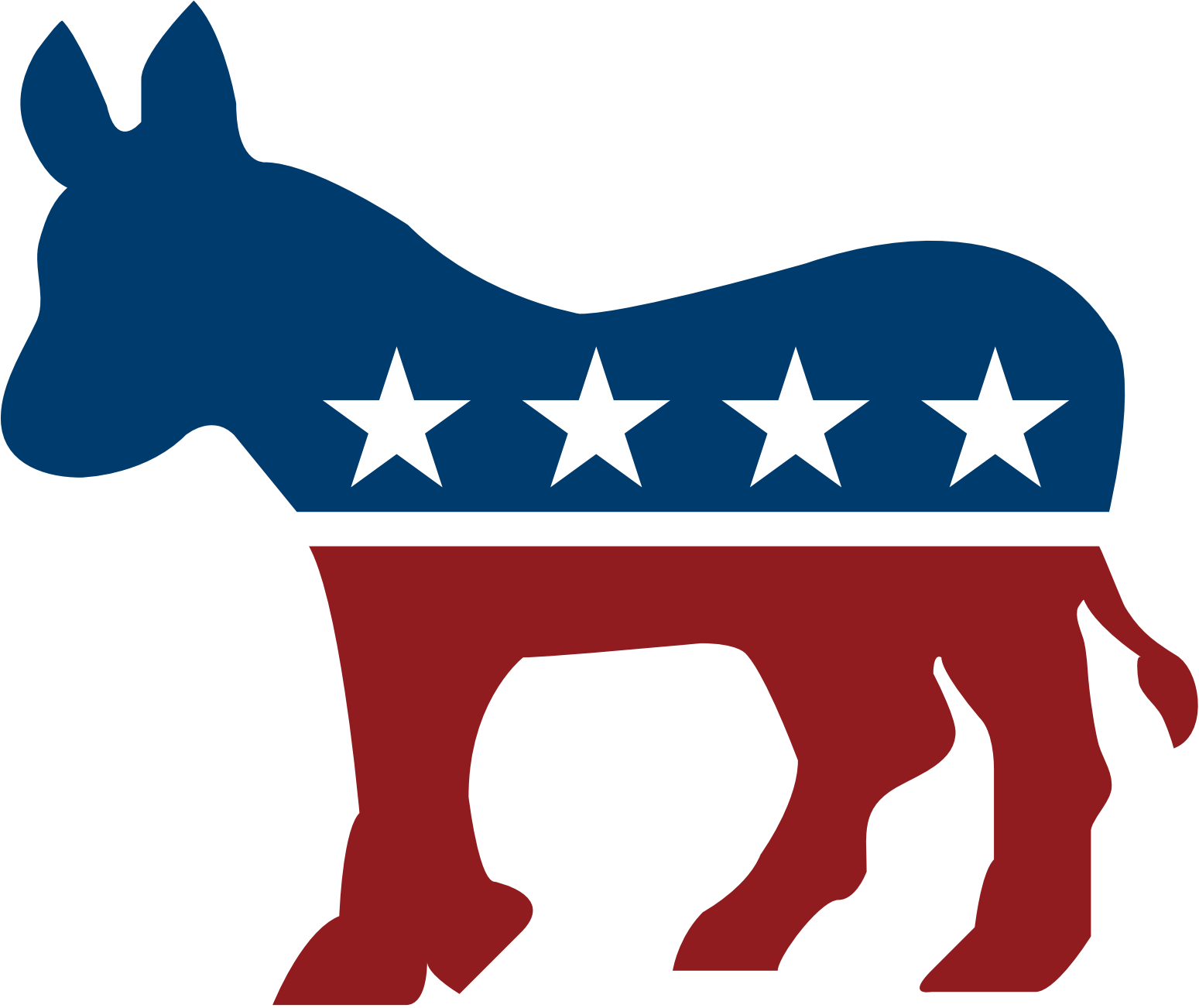


Is

**GOD A**



**OR A**







**MORAL AND/OR SPIRITUAL ISSUES**

**ECONOMICS**

**NATIONAL SECURITY**

**WHAT SHOULD MOST INFLUENCE  
OUR NATIONAL POLITICS?**

**ECONOMY**

**RACISM**

**WAR ON TERROR**

**CLASS DIVIDE**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS**

**TAXES TOO HIGH**

**NATIONAL SECURITY**

**TAXES TOO LOW**

**EDUCATION**

**XENOPHOBIA**

**WHICH ISSUE CONCERNS YOU  
THE MOST?**



**THERE IS NO HOPE**

**OPRAH**

**BARACK OBAMA**

**KARL MARX**

**MITT ROMNEY**

**GOOD WILL**

**I DON'T KNOW**

**TERM LIMITS**

**JESUS**

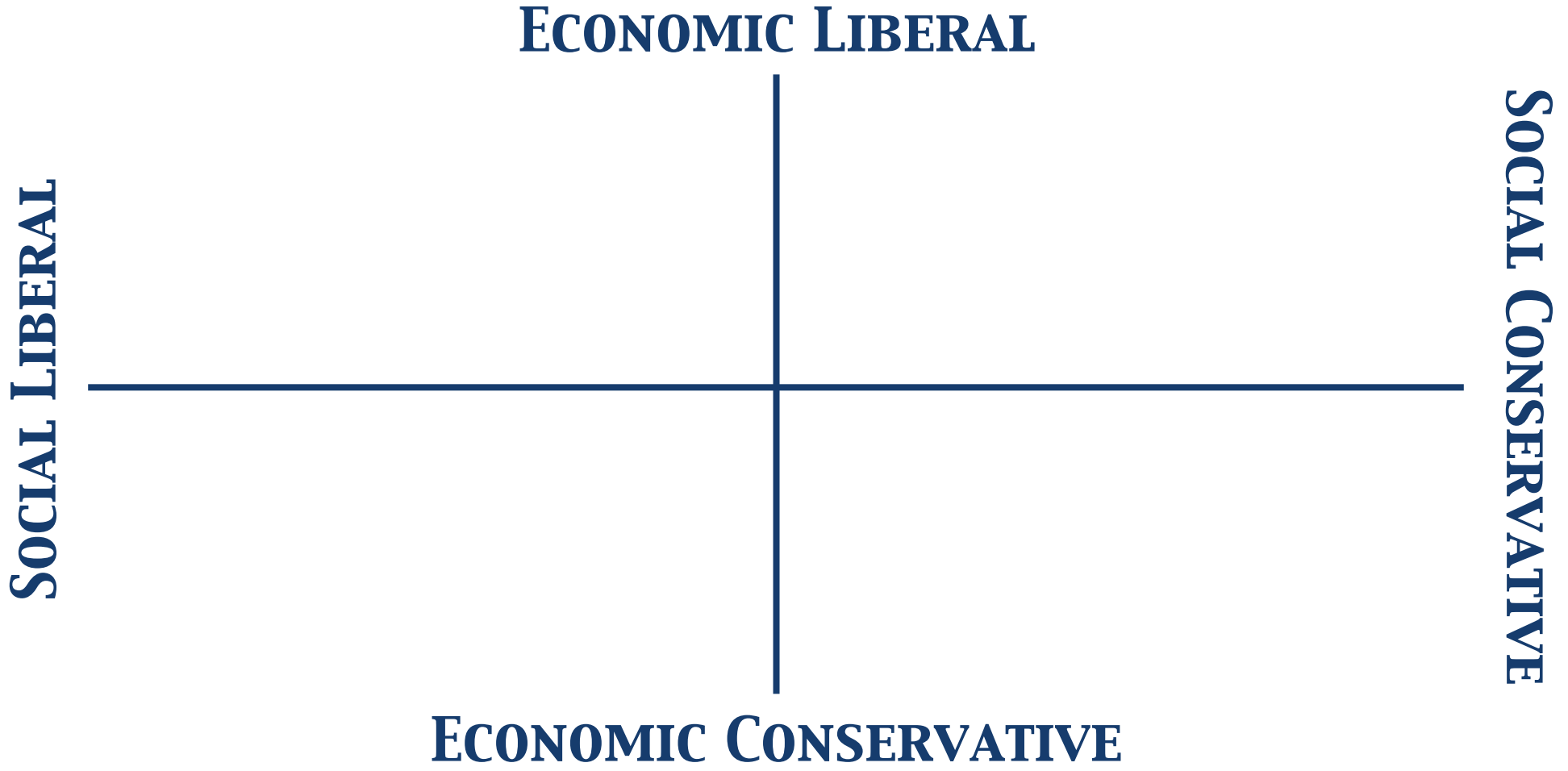
**I'M JUST OPTIMISTIC**

**WHAT GIVES YOU HOPE  
FOR THE WORLD?**

**NO WAY      PROBABLY  
NOT      MAYBE      PROBABLY      CERTAINLY**

<b>TURNING ECONOMY AROUND</b>				
<b>CUTTING CARBON EMISSIONS</b>				
<b>ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>				
<b>IMPROVING SCHOOLS</b>				
<b>BALANCING BUDGET</b>				
<b>DEPORTATION OF UNDOCUMENTED FAMILY MEMBERS</b>				
<b>IMPROVING MIDDLE-CLASS STANDARD OF LIVING</b>				

**HOW OPTIMISTIC/PESSIMISTIC ARE YOU  
THAT CURRENT POLITICIANS WILL BRING  
MEANINGFUL PROGRESS IN THESE AREAS?**



**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE  
YOUR POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY?**

**AFRAID**

**DISAPPOINTED**

**RELIEF**

**HOPEFUL**

**CONFUSED**

**CONFIDENT**

**EXCITED**

**ANGRY**

**DISGUSTED**

**DISILLUSIONED**

**MEH**

**OTHER**

**HOW ARE YOU FEELING  
ABOUT THIS ELECTION?**

**FAMILY**

**PEERS**

**SCHOOL**

**MYSELF**

**HISTORY**

**CULTURE**

**FAITH**

**MEDIA**

**WHERE DO YOUR VALUES  
COME FROM?**

**GREED**

**DISHONESTY**

**RELIGION**

**IDENTITY POLITICS**

**INCIVILITY**

**RELUCTANCE TO CHANGE**

**IGNORANCE**

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

**CORRUPTION**

**WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS  
IN POLITICS TODAY?**

**COMPASSION**

**ACCEPTANCE**

**HOPEFULNESS**

**RESPECT**

**TRANSPARENCY**

**JUSTICE**

**GENEROSITY**

**CONSISTENCY**

**REASON**

**HONESTY**

**INTELLIGENCE**

**OTHER**

**WHICH VALUES/MORALS ARE  
MOST NEEDED IN POLITICS?**



**HOW MUCH DO YOUR VALUES  
INFLUENCE YOUR POLITICAL VIEWS?**



**“RELIGION HAS BEEN REAL TO ME AND CLOSELY KNITTED TO LIFE. IN FACT, THE TWO CANNOT BE SEPARATED; RELIGION FOR ME IS LIFE.”**

**“I JUST WANT TO DO GOD’S WILL. AND HE’S ALLOWED ME TO GO TO THE MOUNTAIN. AND I’VE LOOKED OVER, AND I’VE SEEN THE PROMISED LAND! I MAY NOT GET THERE WITH YOU, BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW TONIGHT, THAT WE AS A PEOPLE WILL GET TO THE PROMISED LAND.”**



**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
1929-1968**

**U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER**

**“GOD ALMIGHTY HAS SET BEFORE ME TWO GREAT OBJECTS, THE SUPPRESSION OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND THE REFORMATION OF MANNERS.”**

**“MEN OF AUTHORITY AND INFLUENCE MAY PROMOTE GOOD MORALS. LET THEM IN THEIR SEVERAL STATIONS ENCOURAGE VIRTUE...LET THEM FAVOR AND TAKE PART IN ANY PLANS WHICH MAY BE FORMED FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MORALITY.”**



**WILLIAM WILBERFORCE**  
**1759-1833**

**LED MOVEMENT THAT ENDED SLAVERY IN BRITISH EMPIRE**

**“THE MIRACLE IS NOT THAT WE DO THIS WORK, BUT THAT WE ARE HAPPY TO DO IT.”**

**“WE ARE ALL PENCILS IN THE HAND OF GOD.”**

**“LET US TOUCH THE DYING, THE POOR, THE LONELY AND THE UNWANTED ACCORDING TO THE GRACES WE HAVE RECEIVED AND LET US NOT BE ASHAMED OR SLOW TO DO THE HUMBLE WORK.”**



**MOTHER TERESA**  
**1910-1997**

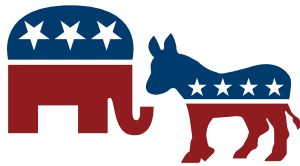
**FOUNDER OF MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY**

**“I DON’T PREACH A SOCIAL GOSPEL;  
I PREACH THE GOSPEL, PERIOD. THE  
GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IS  
CONCERNED FOR THE WHOLE PERSON.  
WHEN PEOPLE WERE HUNGRY, JESUS  
DIDN’T SAY ‘NOW IS THAT POLITICAL  
OR SOCIAL?’ HE SAID, ‘I FEED YOU.’  
BECAUSE THE GOOD NEWS TO A HUNGRY  
PERSON IS BREAD.”**



**DESMOND TUTU  
1931-**

**ARCHBISHOP OF SOUTH AFRICA**



# ELECTION 2012

## FULL SCRIPT

### 1. Introduce yourself, state your purpose, and ask permission.

We're exploring the spiritual contours of this year's election. Want to participate?

Hi, I'm \_\_\_\_\_. What's your name? We're from InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and we're inviting the [school name here] community to explore the spiritual dimensions of this year's political election. We're having people go through this interactive display to think about the election in light of Christian spirituality.

### 2. Invite them to share their concerns.

*Use 1 or more display questions, for example: What do you think are the most pressing problems in the U.S.? Where are we in desperate need of change?*

### 3. Ask for their opinions about the possibilities for change.

*Use 1 or more display questions, for example: What would it take to see real change in the U.S.? Do you have faith in the political system to bring about the kind of change you long for?*

### 4. Optional question and transition. Otherwise, go directly to step 5.

This is obviously a silly question, but if God were voting, who do you think he'd vote for? Why?

But seriously...one of the things we're exploring is how God might be relevant to these issues and essential in bringing about real change in the U.S. and the world.

### 5. Transition to their opinion about connecting world problems and faith.

*Use 1 or more display questions, for example: What role, if any, do you think God or faith could play in solving the problems in the world?*

### 6. After listening to their answers, ask if you can share what God has to do with all of this.

Would you be interested in hearing a Christian perspective on how the central story of Christianity has brought about systemic transformation in the world?

*If "no," thank them, ask for contact information, and give them InterVarsity information. If "yes," continue to step 7.*

### 7. Share examples of 1 or more of the historical figures.

Obviously, terrible things have happened in the name of Christianity in the past and even today. However, over the last 2,000 years, some of the most transformative ideas, social movements, and organizations have been inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus:

Human rights	Child labor laws	Non-profits	Hospitals
Women's suffrage	Orphanages	Universities	
Homeless shelters	Civil rights movements		

We show these four historical figures because they're examples of how faith—particularly faith in Jesus—played an important role in their bringing significant change to the world.

- Martin Luther King, Jr. was inspired by his faith. In fact, he said it was central to everything he did.
- William Wilberforce's faith in Jesus was his central driving factor to eliminating slavery.
- Mother Teresa's relationship with God pressed her into the slums of Calcutta to rescue thousands from extreme poverty.
- Desmond Tutu's spiritual beliefs were inspiration to advocate for the oppressed in South Africa.

## 8. Share the gospel. (Sample dialogue provided—you do *not* need to memorize.)

All of these people were motivated by this story...

When we look around us at the world, we can see it's pretty messed up: Injustice, global poverty, the environmental crisis, the AIDS epidemic, and the economic crisis are just a few things that have happened recently.

But what's interesting is the way we respond. We actually long for a better world deep inside, and either we get really excited about our favorite political candidate as a means of bringing positive change, or we bury our feelings deep inside and may become cynical. But, somewhere inside, we know things are screwed up and we long for a better world.

Just as hunger points us to food or thirst points us to water, this longing for a better world would seem to point us to the possibility that a better world either did exist or will one day exist.

*Draw the four worlds of the New World gospel outline, if possible.*

In the Christian worldview, a better world did exist. Humans were originally **DESIGNED FOR GOOD**. God made humanity to bear his image—his love, his reason, his care. In the Bible, there is a story of a garden, in which humanity lived in perfect harmony with God, with each other, and with the environment.

But then humanity—whether literally or figuratively—turned away from God and we tried to put ourselves in the center. And we messed everything up. Our relationship with God, with each other, and with the environment were damaged. We were **DAMAGED BY EVIL**.

But this was a problem for God—because he loved humanity and wanted a relationship with us—and so the only way that he could restore this relationship is by actually becoming a human and taking on all the suffering and pain that humans had brought into the world. In the Christian story, God becomes a human, Jesus, and lives among us and teaches us, and then ultimately, dies in our place. He took all the pain, sorrow, and damage humanity had brought into the world to the grave with him. And then, he rose again. And now he's actually alive and invites anyone who wants to to be joined with him and to begin to experience new life. We can actually be restored to relationship with God. We are **RESTORED FOR BETTER**.

But this isn't the end of the story, because even though we can be restored to God, the world is still pretty messed up. And so it's not just enough to be connected to God, he actually wants to build a new community, with his Spirit at the center, and then send us out together to heal and restore. As we're restored and healed by God on the inside, we become the instruments of his restoration and are **SENT TO HEAL** the world.

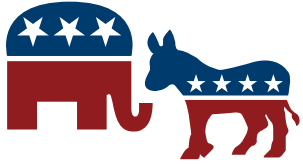
At this point, some people wonder why can't we just go from being damaged by evil to sent together to heal? Well, the reason is that the evil that we face is not just outside us—out there—it's actually in every one of us, inside us. There is evil in the world system, but that system is made up of us. We actually need to be changed and renewed from inside, before we can do anything really radical. Obviously there are many people who can do a lot of good for a while, but to really change the world, you need to change not only systems, but the people in them.

When we truly experience healing from God and calling from him, we can make an incredible difference in the world. In fact, other people will experience God's restoration through us. That is the story of Martin Luther King, Jr. or William Wilberforce or Mother Teresa or Desmond Tutu.

## 9. Invite them to respond.

What do you think about that story? Does it resonate with you?

*(Point to your drawing of the New World gospel presentation)* What world would you put self in?

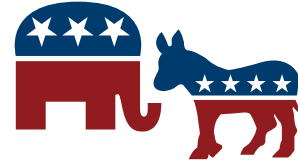


# ELECTION 2012

## CRIB NOTES

1. Introduce yourself, state your purpose, and ask permission.
2. Invite them to share their concerns for the U.S.
3. Ask for their opinions about the possibilities for change.
4. Ask who they think God might vote for in this election (optional).
5. Transition to their opinion about connecting world problems and faith.
6. Ask if you can share what God has to do with all of this. If “no,” thank them, ask for contact information, and give them InterVarsity information. If “yes,” continue to step 7.
7. Share examples of 1 or more of the historical figures.
8. Share the gospel.  
Draw the four worlds of the New World gospel outline.  
World 1: DESIGNED FOR GOOD  
World 2: DAMAGED BY EVIL.  
World 3: RESTORED FOR BETTER.  
World 4: SENT TO HEAL
9. Invite them to respond.

INTERVARSITY



# ELECTION 2012

## CRIB NOTES

1. Introduce yourself, state your purpose, and ask permission.
2. Invite them to share their concerns for the U.S.
3. Ask for their opinions about the possibilities for change.
4. Ask who they think God might vote for in this election (optional).
5. Transition to their opinion about connecting world problems and faith.
6. Ask if you can share what God has to do with all of this. If “no,” thank them, ask for contact information, and give them InterVarsity information. If “yes,” continue to step 7.
7. Share examples of 1 or more of the historical figures.
8. Share the gospel.  
Draw the four worlds of the New World gospel outline.  
World 1: DESIGNED FOR GOOD  
World 2: DAMAGED BY EVIL.  
World 3: RESTORED FOR BETTER.  
World 4: SENT TO HEAL
9. Invite them to respond.

INTERVARSITY