

**PRAY**

Lord, you are king and rule over the whole world. Only you are perfectly just and lead your people by unerring safety. Those who have power on earth have seized power or power was given to them by the people. And even those whom power were given by people misuse this power for unjust purposes. Expel these tyrants and unjust despots. Help that in all nations only worthy men take over government — a government which serves. Amen.

**CONTEMPLATE**

One person reads the Bible passage aloud.
Short silence.

Exchange: *What particularly appealed to you?*

**STUDY**

1. Read DOCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.
2. Three minutes of silence.
3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.
4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).

**DISCUSS**

Also discuss your own questions on this topic!

Treasure Book: *Take five minutes to write down what you don't want to forget.*

**CHALLENGE**

Our **CHALLENGES** are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at feedback@youcat.org.

#DOCATChallenge: *Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.*

**Ps 72:2-3**

May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!
Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness

32

Does the Church favor a particular societal and political model?

The Church can approve a wide range of political forms, provided the dignity and rights of every person and the common good are respected and protected. She supports a free, democratic social order to the extent that this offers the best guarantee for the social participation of all and safeguards human rights. On this topic Pope John Paul II writes: "The Church values the democratic system inasmuch as it ensures the participation of citizens in making political choices, guarantees to the governed the possibility both of electing and holding accountable those who govern them, and of replacing them through peaceful means when appropriate. Thus she cannot encourage the formation of narrow ruling groups which usurp the power of the State for individual interests or for ideological ends. Authentic democracy is possible only in a State ruled by law and on the basis of a correct conception of the human person" (Pope John Paul II, Centesimus Annus 46)

1. What do you think of Winston Churchill's statement: „Democracy is the worst form of government — apart from all other forms which were tested from time to time“?
2. Why is mere democracy not enough, but it is necessary to have a constitutional state, too?
3. Why is the Church not a normal democracy, although it contains many democratic elements?
4. Read Desmond Tutu's sentence: „It took centuries for the European countries to develop their democracy. It's been now just 14 years since the end of apartheid!“ What is so difficult about the establishment and preservation of democracy?

Build up two teams and hold a debate: „The best government“.

One group is supporting democracy and the other one the absolute monarchy.

Follow the call for justice (read also Docat question 108).

Do you take on this challenge?

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