

## Breakout Questions 11-14-23

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86867445960>

- 1. Getting to know you:** What series are you watching on your televisions right now? Whether it is *Ted Lasso*, *The Morning Show*, *Lessons in Chemistry*, or the *Bridgerton series*, we venture to say that some of us have become binge watchers. For those interested, let's share what we are watching and why.
- 2. Anti-Semitism and its connection to democracy.** The last time we held our Tuesday evening Zoom, the Israel-Hamas war had just broken out and everyone on the call chose to spend our time in discussion on this horrific and heartbreaking situation. What few of us expected was the immediate rise in Antisemitism. The focus of Tuesday's discussion will be the connection between Anti-Semitism and democracy in the US. There are a number of alarming articles coming out about this. Here is an excerpt from one of them:

**Excerpt from Political Commentator Steve Schmidt about the Rise of Anti-Semitism:**

*There is only one type of society that has ever existed where the Jews have been safe. Democratic societies are those places. When they grow weak, decayed and distressed, Jews become endangered. There is an explosion of antisemitism across the world, and suddenly millions of Jews who couldn't understand the meaning of their grandparents' stories suddenly understand them.*

*It has become dangerous for Jews again. It has become dangerous, not because the enemies of tolerance, liberty and freedom are strong, but rather because the democracies who defend these values are weak. Fascism did not thrive on the 1930s because it was strong. It thrived because the democracies were weak. We must understand that in this moment of grave danger.*

- 3. Open Topic/Chat Session** – Whatever you'd like to discuss.

