

1 JOHN THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN THE BOO



LOVE ONE ANOTHER

JULY 31
DISCUSSION GUIDE

TEST THE SPIRITS

Key verse

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

1 John 4:1-3

Three things to align with scripture:

1. The Message
2. The Messenger
3. The Message Receiver

Opening Thought

Not every message we hear should be trusted. The passage we are studying tells us to test the spirits. The spirits are the unseen spiritual influence of a message. Every message has one of two spiritual influences—the spirit of God, which is truth, and the spirit of the Antichrist, which is falsehood. The church should examine all teaching according to scripture.

Ice breakers

- Have you ever bought a car from a dealership that you wished you had not? Tell the group about it.
- If it wasn't a car, what other things have you bought or been taken advantage of because you were not an expert on something?

Dig Deeper

- What stuck out to you the most?
- Read Galatians 1:6-10. What is Paul's warning here?
- What false teaching that exists in our community could be contrary to the gospel?
- What are some examples of some teaching that sound true and feel true but are not based on scripture?
- Have you ever been quick to label something as false teaching because of how it has made you feel? Tell your group about it.
- Read Philippians 1:15-18. Paul expresses a heart for sharing the gospel even by people who do it for selfish gain. Would you say that your heart reflects the same desire? Why or why not?

Closing Challenge

Examine your life this week. Are you regularly digging into scripture? Are you testing messages and messengers according to scripture? What changes do you need to make?