



Week 6 Message-Based Curriculum

Text: 1 John 4:1-6

Opening

- Begin with a **brief welcome and prayer** to set the tone for the group time.
- **Introduce the theme:** John is writing to a church surrounded by confusion—cultural lies, distorted teaching about Jesus, and spiritual voices that “sound good” but aren’t true. His invitation is simple: **Don’t believe everything. Test everything.**

Discussion Questions

CONNECT

- Share about a time you or someone you know received a message, text, or ad and couldn’t tell if it was real or a scam. What made it hard to tell if it was legit or not?
- When it comes to faith, where do you feel the most uncertain? In other words, is there an area where you’re trying to determine what you believe or why you believe it?
- What sources do you feel influence your spiritual beliefs the most right now?

DISCOVER

Read 1 John 4:1-6 together

- What stood out to you or confused you in this passage?
- John says, “Do not believe every spirit.” Why do you think discernment was such an urgent issue for this young church?

We are learning 6 ways to “test the spirits”. As a group, walk through and discuss each test.

The Jesus Test — Who do they say Jesus is?

John says the core issue is always Jesus: His identity, His divinity, His incarnation, His resurrection, His return.

- Why is Jesus’ identity the central test of truth?
- How do false or watered-down versions of Jesus show up today?

The Scripture Test — Does it align with God’s Word?

John says truth agrees with what God has revealed, not with what “sounds right” or matches our preferences.

- What makes Scripture difficult—but essential—to submit to?
- Share an example of a time the Bible disagreed with you.

The Community Test — What do other wise believers say?

We're not meant to discern alone.

- Who are the trusted voices you go to when you're spiritually unsure?
- Why is isolated Bible reading dangerous?

The Glory Test — Who gets the credit: God or me?

Some messages make *us* the center; the true Gospel makes Jesus the hero.

- In modern preaching/teaching, what does "glory theft" look like?
- How can "feel-good" spirituality distract us from the real Jesus?

The Fruit Test — What does it produce?

Look at the teacher's life and the outcomes of their message.

- What kind of "fruit" does Jesus say to look for?
- Have you ever followed a teaching or mindset that produced unhealthy fruit?

The Holy Spirit Test — What is the Spirit confirming or warning in me?

John says the Spirit helps us discern truth from error.

- When have you sensed the Holy Spirit prompting you toward truth or away from something harmful?
- What makes it hard to distinguish the Spirit's voice from anxiety, preference, or pressure?

APPLY

- How can our group help each other discern well and keep one another accountable and on the right path? What rhythms, conversations, or commitments could protect us?

GROUP PRAYER

This week, we are going to tie our prayer requests to what we've been talking about:

Pray for:

- **For Discernment:** "Spirit of Truth, help us test what we hear and protect us from cynicism".
- **For Humility:** "Help us submit to Scripture even when we disagree with it."
- **For Clarity:** "Expose lies that have shaped our identity."
- **For Assurance:** "Remind us that *He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world.*"

CLOSING

Close with confidence from John's words:

"Little children, you are from God and have overcome them."

Your assurance is in Jesus, through His Word, by His Spirit.

Encourage the group to practice one of the Six Tests this week whenever they encounter teaching, content, or internal thoughts that feel spiritually confusing.

Next week's passage: 1 John 4:7-21