

October 29 - November 4

Truth and Deception | Test the Spirits

Icebreaker: What are things that are "spiritual" in nature that are contrary to the Bible? Why are people drawn to these things?

Read 1 John 4:1-6

- What do you think he is talking about by "spirits?" Is he talking about supernatural beings, the spirits of people, or both?
- How do spirits involve themselves in people's lives according to verse 1?
- John begins this passage by asking them not to believe every spirit. Why are people so quick to listen to messages in their path? Why are people naturally less discerning than they ought to be?
- Have you ever had an experience with a false spirit? How did you know?
- According to this passage, what is more important, the nature of the person we face or the content of their teaching?
- How do we test the spirits according to this passage?
- What distinguishes teaching that comes from the Spirit of God versus what comes from the spirit of the antichrist?
- Why is the nature of Jesus so central in determining false teachers?
- What is false teaching about Jesus that we see in our world? Consider people or groups who deny his full divinity or humanity.
- According to verse 4, why can we be confident in the face of false teachers and evil spirits?
- In verses 5 and 6, what do we see as another test of the veracity of a person's teaching?
- What are examples of false teaching the world readily listens to?
- Who are we to listen to? How can we ensure we are listening to the right people and messages?
- How ought we respond to false teachers?

PRAYER



