

Week of October 25 (Week #7)

- The Sermon Notes from Pastor Dan’s message on Sunday – “True or False?” can be helpful for your group’s study discussion.

- Read together 1 John chapter 4, verses 1-6
 - John emphasizes twice in this passage that we CAN recognize the Spirit of God or Spirit of truth from the spirit of the antichrist/spirit of falsehood. Review from this passage how: (acknowledgement or confession of Jesus Christ; speaks from the viewpoint of the world or in favor of the desires and things of the world...in other words justifies sin or denies sin)

 - Have the group read and review other scriptures that warn about the impact of false teachers/prophets. What is their influence and how can we recognize them?
 - Deuteronomy 13:1-3 (directs people to follow and worship other gods)
 - 2 Chronicles 18:3-7 (false prophets tend to say only what people want to hear...see also 2 Timothy 4:3-4)
 - Jeremiah 14:14 (false lies and visions...delusions of their own minds)
 - Jeremiah 23:9-14 (follow evil and lead people astray; use their power unjustly or for personal gain)
 - Ezekiel 13:1-12 pay close attention to verse 10 (offer false peace)
 - Matthew 7:15-16 (disguised as good; recognize them by their fruit)
 - Mark 13:22-23 (able to do miraculous but will deceive)
 - Acts 20:29-31 (distort the truth, draw believers away)

 - Discuss some of the false teachings being proclaimed presently. Some example include:
Positive confession or prosperity doctrines (these tend to leave out Christ while promising personal gain in this world over the kingdom of God to come)

Acceptance/permissiveness of sin (homosexuality; devaluing of God’s design for marriage)

Questioning or diminishing the authority of the Holy Scriptures – reliance upon other writings and books as authoritative.

 - Close by highlighting and reviewing the “Berean test” (Acts 17:10-11) Note the need for both:
 - Eagerness to receive teaching and messages from God and His word.
 - Examination of God’s Word for the truth.