

STUDYING THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 8 - Test the Spirits - 1 John 4:1-6

Read the following verses in the New Living Translation or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

Discerning False Prophets

4 Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. ²This is the way to find out if they have the Spirit of God: If a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ became a human being, that person has the Spirit of God. ³If a prophet does not acknowledge Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist. You have heard that he is going to come into the world, and he is already here.

⁴But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won your fight with these false prophets, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. ⁵These people belong to this world, so they speak from the world's viewpoint, and the world listens to them. ⁶But we belong to God; that is why those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 8 - Test the Spirits - 1 John 4:1-6

80. What did John instruct his readers to do? (4:1)
81. Who did John say had gone into the world? (4:1)
82. How is the Spirit of God recognized? (4:2)
83. How can we distinguish truth from error in spiritual matters? (4:2-3)
84. What spirit does not acknowledge that Jesus is from God? (4:3)
85. Why did the writer say that believers had overcome the spirit of the antichrist? (4:4)
86. Where is the spirit of the antichrist from? (4:5)
87. From what viewpoint does the spirit of the antichrist speak? (4:5)
88. Who does and does not listen to those who are from God? (4:6)

89. How are the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood recognized? ([4:6](#))
90. What is the significance of acknowledging that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh?

Lesson 9 - God's Love and Ours - [1 John 4:7-21](#)

Loving One Another

⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God—for God is love.

⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. ¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love has been brought to full expression through us.

¹³ And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. ¹⁴ Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ All who proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. ¹⁶ We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in him.

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. ¹⁷ And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we are like Christ here in this world.

¹⁸ Such love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of judgment, and this shows that his love has not been perfected in us. ¹⁹ We love each other as a result of his loving us first.

²⁰ If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we have not seen? ²¹ And God himself has commanded that we must love not only him but our Christian brothers and sisters, too.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 9 - God's Love and Ours - [1 John 4:7-21](#)

91. What were the readers of 1 John encouraged to do? ([4:7](#))
92. What is the relationship between loving and knowing God? ([4:7-8](#))
93. How did God show His love? ([4:9](#))
94. Why did God send His Son? ([4:9](#))

95. What is love? ([4:10](#))
96. Why should Christians love one another? ([4:11](#))
97. What is the result of loving one another? ([4:12](#))
98. How can believers know that they live in God and God lives in them? ([4:13](#))
99. What did John testify concerning? ([4:14](#))
100. What happens when we acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God? ([4:15](#))
101. Why is love important? ([4:16-17](#))
102. How is love made complete? ([4:17](#))
103. What does perfect love do? Why? ([4:18](#))
104. Why should we love? ([4:19](#))
105. What is the relationship between loving God and loving one's brother? ([4:20-21](#))
106. How can we demonstrate our love for God?
107. How can we demonstrate our love for others?