

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

1 JOHN SERIES

These questions are for the **June 11, 2017** sermon, "Testing the Spirits." Please read the sermon passage (1 John 4:1-6) together out loud.

IN MATTERS OF TESTING, EXAMINE . . .

1. **The confessions made about God.** (1-3)
 - A. Many will make statements about God.
 - i. Do not believe everyone who makes a claim or a statement about God.
 - ii. Everyone who appears to be "spiritual" is not Christian.
 - iii. It is possible for believers to be led duped.
 - B. Do not believe every spirit. Test every statement by God's Word.
 - i. Jesus Christ is eternal.
 - ii. Jesus Christ is God incarnate, come in the flesh.
2. **The contrasts made by God.** (4-6)
 - A. Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world.
 - B. By what is said about Jesus we know both truth and error.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: While it is important to be loving and gracious, we must also be discerning. In what way do you "test every" thing that is said about God and the identity of Jesus Christ?
2. Based on #1, above: This passage identifies two key truths about Jesus that must be upheld: he is eternal, and he is God, come in the flesh. Reject all "spirits" who do not uphold these truths. Discuss this. Talk about recent conversations where these truths needed to be upheld. Talk about other conversations that you have had recently about Jesus' deity.
3. Based on #1, above: You can reject teaching without being militant or angry. How can you disagree with people without being disagreeable?
4. Based on #2, above: You don't have to be afraid that "false spirits" may win the day. John is reminding us here that in a day of false spirits, God has taken residence in each of his children. "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." How does this truth strengthen you?
5. Based on #2, above: You don't have to convince everyone about Jesus' true identity, but you do need to provide reasons for your faith to those who ask. When God is at work in someone's life, they will listen to the truth about him. How does this truth take the pressure off of you? How does this truth inform and impact your prayer life?