

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

1 John 4:1-6

Read as a group 1 John 4:1-6

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.

3 – Main Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **The “They”**
- **The “You”**
- **The “Us”**

I. The “They”

- Have you ever talked with someone from a non-Christian religious cult? If so, what was the conversation like? What topics did you discuss?
- Have you ever related false teaching with demonic spirits? Read and discuss the following verses.
 - 1 Tim. 4:1
 - Col. 2:8
- Read and discuss the following verses.
 - 2 Cor. 11:14
 - Matthew 7:15
 - 2 Peter 2:1
 - John 8:43-44
- How do you discern if a religious system/teacher is sound or bogus?

- What did John mean when he urged his readers to “test the spirits” in verse 1?
- What is the first test of a true teacher of God in verse 2?
- Why is the doctrine of Christ so important?
- Why is it absolutely essential that teachers in the church embrace the full humanity and deity of Christ?
- How did John define the “spirit of Antichrist” in verse 3?

II. The “You”

- What is the second test of a true teacher in verses 5-6?
- What is the encouraging promise of verse 4? To whom is John referring?
 - **John MacArthur writes** - In the incarnation, God became a partaker of human nature. Through regeneration, on the other hand, human beings **become partakers of the divine nature.**
- Reflect on the truth in 1 John 4:4. What difference does it make in your life knowing that God is greater than all other powers?
 - **One Commentator** - All true Christians possess an incorruptible seed of eternal life (1 Peter 1:23-25), meaning that no satanic deception can take them out of God’s saving hand. Those truly born again have been given not only a supernatural insight into the truth but a love for it as well and a discernment that protects them from apostasy.

III. The “Us”

- What does John Piper mean when he says that Christians should have a theological nose? And how can we improve ours?
 - **Leaders Cheat:** *It is the ability to sense something is off when there is false teaching. You can almost sniff it out.*
- Why would verse 6 be very arrogant if John wasn’t an apostle?
 - **John Stott** - *These statements sound the heights of arrogance. So they would be if uttered by an individual Christian. No private believer*

could presume to say: 'Whoever knows God agrees with me; only those who are not of God disagree with me.' **But this is what John says.** The fact is that he is not speaking in his own name, nor even in the name of the Church, but as one of the apostles, who were aware of the special authority bestowed upon them by Jesus Christ.

- Read and discuss the following quote
 - **Douglas O'Donnell** - We are not missing some Spirit-filled experience when we only read and teach the Bible. There is not a time for the Spirit (singing & praying) and then a time for the Word (preaching). **To be led by the Spirit in corporate worship or private devotion is to be led back to the inspired apostolic testimony.**
- Read the following verses and discuss the connection between God's word and God's people.
 - John 10:4-5
 - John 10:7-8
 - John 10:16
 - John 10:25-27

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:20-22 & Acts 20:28-32

- According to Paul, what are some ways to combat false teaching? What part does God's Word play?

Read Acts 17:10-11

- Why were the Berean Christians commended?

How careful are you about examining the messages, Christian songs and sermons you hear at church, on TV, on the radio, or via the Internet? How can you guard against buying into wrong ideas about God, faith, and the spiritual life?