

The Abiding Life

Discussion Guide

Week of October 1- **Waging Spiritual War**

Scripture verse: 1 John 4:1-6

LOOKING BACK:

Last week we made a plan to look at tangible ways to love people in three different areas of our life.

1. How did you love your family this past week
2. How did you love your actual neighbors?
3. How did you love the "neighbors" in your daily life?

Share with the group ways you were able to live out that love. Was it easy or challenging to live out your plan? Did you see transformation in yourself and/or those you loved?

OPENING QUESTION:

In the past, what or who did you think of when you heard or read the word "antichrist"? Is that term scary for you?

LOOKING UP:

1. Have someone in the group read 1 John 4:1-6.
2. John gives clear distinction on testing the spirits and discerning what is from God.
3. Many of us think of one person/being when we hear the word "antichrist" but 1 John gives a different explanation. What does John have to say?
4. How does he say we can recognize the Spirit of God?
5. Ask someone in the group to read Hebrews 4:12-13.

6. What does this passage say about God's Word? Is anything hidden from God?

<p>READ THE PASSAGE 1 John 4:1-6</p> <p>Answer the first 2 questions after reading the passage</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What stood out to you most?2. What was challenging or hard to understand?3. What does this teach us about God?4. What does this teach us about people?	<p>RE-READ THE PASSAGE</p> <p>Read the passage again using another Bible translation... then answer the last 2 questions</p>
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LOOKING FORWARD:

1. We often put faith or credence into "spirits" that don't align with our beliefs. We may do this unknowingly or it might simply be a slow fade of acceptance.
2. What areas of your life might you be listening to false spirits? Consider the influences in your life. (For example- the shows you watch, the counsel you receive, the areas where you put your time. All of these seemingly benign activities can alter your ability to perceive truth.)
3. Where might you be motivated to follow false spirits?
4. As we work to be refined by God, it is crucial we're in constant prayer, asking for the Lord to open our hearts and minds to areas where we need to sift out impurities.
5. This week, commit to pray daily for the sole task of asking God to bring to mind areas where you might be following false prophets. Ask Him for the strength to change your focus to His true Spirit.
6. Close in prayer asking God to keep us in His word daily and for the Holy Spirit to help us discern God's truth from false prophets and spirits.

