PREACHING CURRICULUM
Testing the Spirits
1 John 4:1-6

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God...

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

Read 1 John 4:1-6. What does it mean to "test the spirits"? When John uses the word "spirit" in this passage, what is he talking about? How might these spirits be communicating with us?

According to John, how can we discern the difference between the Spirit of God and the spirit of antichrist? Between the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error? What are two tests we can apply in order to tell the difference?

See **verse 2**. What does it mean to confess that "Jesus Christ has come in the flesh"? In what ways might this truth be denied?

What resources do we have available to us to help us combat the spirit of error? What assistance can we gain from them?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

Why is false teaching such a challenge to the church today? What is it about our modern world that makes false teaching so widespread and difficult to deal with?

How might the "spirit of antichrist" express itself today? What are some common ways people deny Jesus Christ in our day and age?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

How do we apply the two tests John mentions to our situation today? Why is it so important and necessary that we learn to test the spirits?

What sources of unbiblical teaching are you most likely to be influenced by? How might you grow in discernment in order to help you combat the lies you hear from these sources?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

How can we help each other sharpen our skills of discernment? Are there any practical steps we can take?