

Sermon Bible Study Series

Title: Abide in Love: Testing the Spirits

Primary Text: 1 John 3:23-4:6

Expanded Reading: *1 John 2, 1 Corinthians 1, Matthew 7:24-27*

Big Idea: *“Testing the Spirits” is testing teachers—and the best way to do this is through their relationship to power and authority.*

Engage **What do you think of as the difference between being a critical thinker, and becoming a critic?**

This question shouldn't take too much time, but should open people to conversation. Validate people's stories and gently invite responses.

- a. ***Have someone briefly review what they remembered from the sermon?*** (You may want to be pre-prepared with the main points to supplement if your group is not able to)
- b. ***What stood out to you/challenged you/ made you think in the sermon?*** (this question could be moved to the deepen section)

Learn ***Read the Primary Text***

1. *What are some characteristics of “antichrist thinking?”*
2. *What are some factors that reveal a leader's relationship to authority?*
3. *How is it part of spiritual formation to learn to be a critical thinker?*

Deepen ***What questions did you want to ask when listening to the sermon?***

Leaders, allow people to wrestle with the text. Don't feel like you need to have all the answers, but in your preparation think about the questions that will arise and be prepared to point toward Jesus and the Scriptures for answers.

What Scripture passages might inform these unanswered questions?

Live

Can you identify a place where we might be tempted to appeal to what works, rather than what is true?

P. Jeremy talked about the importance of Christ, and the Word, as a common denominator in critical thinking for everyone in the Church. How might learning to be such a critical thinker about the Christian faith help you to respond to challenges from others?