



Water, Blood and Spirit - A Study of 1 John Discussion Guide: Week 6 - 1 John 4:1-6

Summary of this week's teaching: Not all spirituality is good, nor are all spirits allegiant to the Lord. As God's dearly beloved children, we need not fear such evil spirits, since we have overcome them through Christ. However, this passage is an exhortation to practice spiritual discernment for ourselves - do we know how to differentiate between the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error?

Connect: Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. Does your family participate in any Halloween activities? Why or why not?

Seed: The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed- it contains everything we need to experience Life. Please read the following passage of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) 1 John 4:1-6.

1. What does this passage teach us about God, the enemy, and ourselves?
2. 1 John 4:4 reassures us that believers have overcome the enemy - how have we done so, and what does this mean for us? (Consider memorizing this verse)

Roots: Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. This passage touches on the unseen spiritual realm, specifically mentioning evil spirits who are attempting to deceive believers. How are you guarding yourself from such a spiritual attack?
2. 1 John 4:2 reminds us that we know (through personal experience) the Spirit of God. How do you hear the Spirit speak to you, and how do you know it's Him?

Trunk: Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." How do these words encourage your faith? Do you ever struggle to believe this promise?
2. Have you ever been duped into believing lies or half-truths regarding God and His word? Please share.

Crown: Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree well represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. As America participates in a much-anticipated election this week, remember that you are a beloved child of God, that His Spirit dwells in you, and that because of this you have overcome the world. Ask the Lord to protect you from the spirit of error this week.

