

# Sermon Supplement from April 21

Practicing Spiritual Discernment | 1 John 4:1-6

## Warm Up

- Talk about a time in your life when you needed spiritual discernment to detect spiritual error.

## Dig In

*Read 1 John 4:1-6*

- V. 1a - In your mind, what characterizes a spiritually gullible or naïve person?
- V. 1b - How do the illustrations of fire purifying metal or training to spot a counterfeit bill help you understand the concept of “test(ing) the spirits to see whether they are from God”?
- V. 2-3 - In what way is Jesus the key test for all spiritual truth claims?
- How might you employ the “Jesus test” on the latest popular Christian book, movie, Bible study, or person claiming direct revelation?
- In what ways does verse 4 give you confidence in God’s truth?
- V. 5-6 – How does the acceptance/rejection test help us discern truth and error?
- Why is the truth of verse 6b so important in our current age of relativism and pluralism?

## Wrap Up

- What are 1-2 key truths that stood out to you from this study?
- Are there areas of your life where you need to do a better job practicing spiritual discernment?
- What is a specific way you can practice spiritual discernment this week?

*Further Study: What does 2 Peter 1:16-2:3 add to this teaching?*

*Next Week’s Sermon: 1 John 4:7-12*

- *Read the text several times in multiple translations.*
- *Read the text in the context of the verses around it.*
- *Read study Bible notes or a commentary on the passage.*
- *Write down what you think is the big idea of the passage.*
- *Write down a few personal applications.*