

Sermon Discussion Questions

Gift of Discerning of Spirits – Matt Slocum

Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

By Joy Jackson

AGENDA

- Allow people to arrive, talk, and snack – 15 min
- Thank everyone for coming. Open in prayer – 30 sec
- Worship – 5-10 min
- Icebreaker question – 10-20 min
- Discussion Questions – 35-45 min
- Prayer – 20-30 min

INTRODUCTION

Today we continue our sermon series on the Gifts of the Spirit. In this series we will take a look at the Gifts of the Spirit and just what they mean to us as we live out our lives as followers of Christ. Let's all approach this series with openness and a desire to see if just maybe there's something new the Holy Spirit wants to teach us. We

continue to talk about the gifts of the spirit, focusing this week on the gift of discernment of spirits.

Understanding this gift can help us understand and use all of the other gifts.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Did you take a risk in pursuing a new or different gift last week? What does that mean to you? How did it go?

2. What was most memorable for you from this week's sermon?

3. Matt spoke about how believers are called to test the Spirit. This includes testing teaching, prophecies, miracles, and more. Is this idea uncomfortable or unexpected? Are you apprehensive about questioning church leadership or church teachings?

4. Matt gave four tests we should give words and actions from the Spirit: 1) test against Scripture; 2) test the character of what's received against the character of God; 3) check the fruit of what's received; 4) see if there is any difference being made by what's received. Use these four tests to test Matt's sermon today. Note the emotions that arise when you practice using these tests.

Icebreakers

Pick one of the icebreaker questions below and go around in a circle (starting with the leader) and have everyone answer. (If you have new members or guests have each person introduce themselves.)

1. What is one characteristic or quality that makes you....well....YOU!
2. Is there an instrument you've always wanted to learn to play? What is it?
3. What breed of dog best represents your personality?

APPLICATION

Matt explained that testing the spirits is not a checklist, and the best way to know how to discern the spirits is by knowing and experiencing God. One of the best ways to know and experience God is by reading your Bible. For the next few weeks, challenge yourself to read the Bible one more time a week than you normally do.

PRAYER (20-30 min)

Ask for prayer requests. Pray that each member will meet this week's application challenge.

COMING UP

To join a small group, sign up at vckceast.com or at one of the weekend services. Study materials are available to download on the church website (<https://vckceast.com>) or on the Facebook page.

All-Church Small Group Sermon Series – 9 Jan – 27 February
Vineyard KC East Men's Breakfast Group – 19 February
Youth Dinner and Games at Pizza Ranch – 20 February (5-7pm)
Vision Sunday – 27 February
Child Dedications – 6 March

FINAL THOUGHT

There is no substitute for knowing God.