



Grace Group Discussion Guide

Sermon Title: Is It Real?

Date: October 25, 2026

1

Connect

Not tied to the text — gets everyone talking early.

- What's one thing from your week worth celebrating?
- Have you ever been fooled by a fake: a scam text, a phishing email, a counterfeit product? How did you finally figure out it wasn't real?

2

Recap

Anchors everyone in the text — no prior training needed to answer.

1 John 4:1–6 (NLT)

1 Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. 2 This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God. 3 But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here. 4 But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. 5 Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world's viewpoint, and the world listens to them. 6 But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.

- What stood out to you from Sunday's message or this passage?
- What does John tell his readers to do in verse 1, and what reason does he give for it?

3**Discovery**

Digging into what the text means — okay if only a few voices carry it.

- John's test isn't "Do they sound spiritual?" but "What do they say about Jesus?" Why do you think everything hinges on whether Jesus came in a real body?
 - Verse 5 says the world speaks from its own viewpoint "and the world listens." Pastor Phil compared this to the algorithm on our phones. Where do you see that dynamic at work?
 - Some deception looks less like a plastic diamond and more like a lab-grown one: it looks right, but it doesn't come from God. Why can a counterfeit that uses Christian language be harder to spot than one that openly denies Jesus?
-

4**Application**

The funnel narrows into life application and vulnerability.

- Which voices shape how you see the world most in a typical week (news, podcasts, social media, friends)? Honestly, how does their time compare with your time in God's Word?
 - Phil said, "God should inform our talking points in the world," not the other way around. Where have you noticed a talking point shaping how you see God, Scripture, or other believers?
 - Is there a relationship that's been strained by politics or another dividing issue? What would it look like to move toward that person in love?
 - What's one place God might be calling you to respond differently?
-

5**Prayer / Response**

Occasional action step — not required every week.

- How can we pray for you this week?
 - Close by praying Sunday's prayer together: "God, help us discern the truth from the lies. Don't let the spirit of this world dictate who we are and what we say and do, but let your Spirit guide me in what is true."
-