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**John 8:32**  
...and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

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**Bad Report**  
Numbers 13:32  
So they brought to the people of Israel a **bad report** of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height.

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### False Report

**False Report** are facts wrapped in deception to distort God's purposes.

Three responses:

1. **Sucker:** Believe everything
2. **Suspicious:** Believe nothing
3. **Separate:** Believe what's true, reject what's false

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**Discern** = from the Latin word Discernere

**Dis** (apart) + **Cernere** (Separate)

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Discern fact  
from fiction  
to disarm false reports.

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**2 Kings 18:19-25**

And the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you rest this trust of yours? Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? In whom do you now trust, that you have rebelled against me?'"

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**2 Kings 18:19-25**

Behold, you are trusting now in Egypt, that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of any man who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him.

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**False Report**

Verdict	Verse
TRUE	"you are trusting now in Egypt, that broken reed of a staff"

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**2 Kings 18:19-25**

But if you say to me, "We trust in the Lord our God," is it not he whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, "You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem"?

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### False Report

Verdict	Verse
TRUE	“you are trusting now in Egypt, that broken reed of a staff”
TRUE/FALSE	is it not he whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem

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### False Reports Are Divisive

Sennacherib created a wedge using a very unpopular and yet God ordained Hezekiah reform to remove the high places throughout Judah. Sennacherib was trying to foster a rebellion in the ranks by saying Hezekiah is not hearing from God.

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Discern fact  
from fiction  
to disarm false reports.

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**2 Kings 18:19-25**

Come now, make a wager with my master the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on your part to set riders on them.

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**2 Kings 18:19-25**

How then can you repulse a single captain among the least of my master's servants, when you trust in Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?

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**False Report**

Verdict	Verse
TRUE	"you are trusting now in Egypt, that broken reed of a staff"
TRUE/FALSE	is it not he whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem
FALSE	I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on your part to set riders on them

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### False Reports Are Demeaning

Sennacherib used insults to demean the King and his army.

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### 2 Kings 18:19-25

Moreover, is it without the Lord that I have come up against this place to destroy it? The Lord said to me, "Go up against this land and destroy it.""

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### False Report

Verdict	Verse
FALSE	The Lord said to me, "Go up against this land and destroy it."

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**False Reports Are Deceptive**

Sennacherib played the “God told me” card in an attempt legitimize his invasion.

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How should we respond to a false report?

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1. Humbly bring it to the Lord in Prayer.

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**2 Kings 19:15-16**

And Hezekiah prayed before the Lord and said: "O Lord, the God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God.

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1. Humbly bring it to the Lord in Prayer.
2. Seek Spiritual counsel.

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**2 Kings 19:5-7**

When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, Isaiah said to them, "Say to your master, 'Thus says the Lord: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled me.

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1. Humbly bring it to the Lord in Prayer.
2. Seek Spiritual counsel.
3. Practice Discernment.

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**Suspicion:** carnal mind using natural senses to search for falsehood to protect itself

**Discernment:** spiritual mind using the gifts of the Holy Spirit to find truth to practice righteousness.

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**1 Thessalonians 5:21-22**

But test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

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