

God's Word to You & God's Work in You

Ice-Breaker:

Finding the truth about any subject is becoming increasingly difficult in our day and age. Discuss why this is so, and how you go about discerning spiritual truth.

Discussion:

1. **Read I Thessalonians 5:19-21. The believers in Thessalonica didn't have the New Testament prophecy (teachings) like we do today, so they needed to test every word they heard to discern if it was truly from God. Nowadays, we are blessed to have all of God's teachings from the first-century prophets collected in the New Testament.**
   - **Do you ever treat God's Word (the Bible) with contempt by taking it for granted?**
   - **What does it mean to "quench the Spirit" (or "put out the Spirit's fire")?**
   - **Paul says to "test everything" and "hold on to the good." How do you do that?**

2. **Read Acts 17:11.**
   - **Why is it important that we not blindly trust any teacher (even the Apostle Paul)?**
   - **Do you ever go back to the Bible and check to see if what a teacher said is accurate?**

3. **Read I Corinthians 11:1 and Matthew 7:20. Why is it important to look at the character of the teacher and not just the words He speaks?**

4. **Read I Thessalonians 5:23-24.**
   - **The word blameless here means "without accusation." Think about an area of your life where someone could accuse you of not being Christ-like. Begin praying about how God might help you to change in that area, remembering the last four words in Paul's prayer: *"He will do it."***

5. **Read John 15:1-12.**
   - **What does Jesus mean when He says: *"apart from Me, you can do nothing?"***
   - **Reflecting on the illustration of the vine and branches, and Jesus' instructions here, how would you describe your role and God's role when it comes to spiritual growth?**
   - **How do you remain (abide) in Jesus?**

Application:

Monday:	Pray for the first two minutes at each new place you go.
Tuesday:	Give thanks for three new things.
Wednesday:	Put the words *"He will do it"* where you can see them throughout the day.
Thursday:	Read a seldom-read chapter of the Bible.
Friday:	Reflect on the rapture and heaven; when you first wake up and before you go to bed.