

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL DISCERNMENT
LIFE GROUP MESSAGE APPLICATION PLAN
8/4/17

MEMORY VERSE

So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. (1 Kings 3:9 NIV)

BIG IDEA

Naturally supernatural people don't just decide things they discern things.

I. Why learning to discern things is so important

- A. God hasn't called us just to be successful but _____ (bring Heaven to earth) bring sovereign solutions to human problems. We can only do that if we can discern what God wants to do and join Him in His work.
- B. At any given moment, the most important thing going on in our life is not the circumstances of our life but the spiritual battle that we don't see. God is at work and Satan is on the attack. Behind things that happen in our lives and thoughts that come into our minds, there are different sources (God, Satan, the flesh, the world, other people). We have to discern the source in order to respond properly.
- C. Satan is constantly trying to trap and deceive us. Without discernment, we will fall into his traps.
- *“And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.” (2 Cor. 11:14)*
 - *“In order that Satan may not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.” (2 Cor. 2:11)*
- D. We are commanded to test every spirit.
- “Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but _____ the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1 NIV)*
- E. One of the main reason some Christians live at a higher level of love, peace, and joy is because they discern and prevent the enemy from _____ their joy and victory.
- F. Part of living a naturally supernatural life is helping others identify and break free from Satan's attacks and strongholds in their life.

II. How to cultivate a greater gift of discernment

- A. Grow in your love for _____. Be passionate about having God's Word define reality for you.
- *"For the Word of God is powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of souls and spirit and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12 NKJV)*
 - *"...with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved." (2 Thessalonians 2:10 NKJV)*
- B. Learn how to test the spirits. Sometimes what people say isn't wrong but the spirit behind what they say is wrong.
- *"You don't know what spirit you are of... the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.." (Luke 9:55-56)*
 - *"The wisdom of God is first of all pure, peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, sowing peace..." (James 3:17)*
- C. Be watchful in _____. Instead of reacting to things, pray and wait on God for things.
- *"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." -will stand. (Prov. 19:21 NIV)*
 - *"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." (Mat. 26:41)*

(ANSWERS: I. supernatural, test, stealing II. truth, prayer)

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What do you think is meant by the phrase, "Naturally supernatural people don't just decide things they discern things?"
2. How is Satan like a scam artist? Have you ever been scammed by the Devil? What is something you've learned about recognizing Satan's tricks?
3. What are ways you feel you could become more aware of the work of the Holy Spirit in people's lives around you, so that you could join God more often in His work?
 - a. Take time to listen to people better, focus more on others than yourself.
 - b. Pray in advance to see opportunities that might come your way.
 - c. Learn to walk slower through the crowds and schedule your day to notice the needs of others.
 - d. Stay in a spirit of worship.
 - e. Ask God often what He's doing.
4. Can you describe a situation in your life now or recently where there was really a spiritual battle going on? What do you think Satan might be trying to do? What do you think God might want you to do or see? How could the group pray with you about this?