

RHEMA WORD CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

E.C. BOOKERT BIBLE SCHOOL

DISCERNMENT

Hearing Clearly, Testing Faithfully, Walking Wisely

STUDENT WORKBOOK

Guided notes, Scripture observations, discernment tools, case studies, reflection pages, and a seven-day growth plan

*"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God."
- 1 John 4:1, KJV*

Three Sessions: 60 Minutes | 30 Minutes | 60 Minutes

Prepared for the teaching ministry of Rhema Word Church International

Welcome to the Discernment Series

God does not call His people to be spiritually gullible, fearful, suspicious, or cynical. He calls us to be filled with the Holy Spirit, grounded in Scripture, centered on Jesus Christ, trained through obedience, and mature enough to distinguish good from evil. Use this workbook during each lesson and continue using the tools afterward.

Series Goal

At the end of this study, I will be able to define discernment, explain why Christians need it, distinguish the spiritual gift from the Christian discipline, test spiritual claims, identify dangerous counterfeits, and practice a Spirit-led process for decisions and ministry.

My Learning Covenant

- I will remain teachable and submit my impressions to Scripture.
- I will not label people or motives carelessly.
- I will seek truth without fear and correction without shame.
- I will protect confidentiality while reporting abuse, threats, or unsafe conduct appropriately.
- I will pursue discernment for love, holiness, service, protection, and obedience to Christ.

What do I most want God to teach me through this series?

SESSION ONE - WHAT DISCERNMENT IS AND WHY WE NEED IT

Session One Guided Notes

Hebrews 5:14, KJV

"...those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

1. Core Definition

Spiritual discernment is the _____-enabled capacity to _____ truth from _____, good from _____, and _____ leading from _____ or _____ influence, so that believers may know and _____ the will of God.

Key Truth

Discernment is not complete until truth shapes our response. It is perception, evaluation, and obedient action.

2. Key Biblical Words

Word	Write the Meaning	My Own Example
diakrisis	_____	_____
dokimazo	_____	_____
wisdom	_____	_____
spiritual maturity	_____	_____

3. Discernment Is / Discernment Is Not

Discernment Is	Discernment Is Not
Spirit-led testing	Suspicion
Truth joined with love	Fault-finding
Scripture-governed judgment	A feeling treated as infallible
Humility and teachability	Spiritual superiority
Protection and faithful action	Judging hidden motives
Growing through practice	Instant knowledge of everything

Which counterfeit of discernment have I most often seen or experienced?

4. Gift and Discipline

The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual _____ of discerning of spirits for the _____ (1 Corinthians 12:7, 10). Every believer must also develop discernment through Scripture, prayer, obedience, community, and repeated _____.

Why does a spiritual gift never make someone superior to the body of Christ?

5. Why Christians Need Discernment

Complete at least six reasons from the lesson:

Reason	Explanation or Example
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____

6. Four Possible Sources of Influence

Influence	What I Learned	A Wise Response
Holy Spirit	_____	_____
Human spirit / emotion	_____	_____
Flesh / world	_____	_____
Deceptive spirit	_____	_____

Remember

Not every emotion, dream, thought, physical sensation, coincidence, or distressing experience is a spiritual message. Discernment considers spiritual, emotional, relational, physical, and factual realities responsibly.

7. Biblical Examples

Passage	What Needed Discernment?	What Principle Do I Learn?
Genesis 3:1-6	_____	_____
Matthew 4:1-11	_____	_____
Matthew 16:13-23	_____	_____
Acts 16:16-18	_____	_____
Acts 17:10-12	_____	_____

8. Session One Reflection

Where am I most vulnerable to confusion: fear, desire, pressure, offense, charisma, haste, or isolation?

What clear biblical truth will help strengthen me?

Homework: Observe 1 John 4:1-6

Read the passage three times. Mark commands with C, warnings with W, truths about Jesus with J, and truths about the Spirit with S.

My one-sentence summary of the passage:

SESSION TWO - TRY THE SPIRITS: A BIBLICAL TESTING PROCESS

Session Two Scripture Observation

1 John 4:1-6, KJV

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God..."

Observation	My Notes
The command in verse 1	
The danger in verse 1	
The test in verses 2-3	
The confidence in verse 4	
The contrast in verses 5-6	
The two spirits named	

The passage connects spiritual influence with human _____ and their message. The Spirit of God always tells the truth about _____.

The C.H.R.I.S.T. Tests

Letter	Test	My Question
C		Does it truthfully honor the biblical Jesus?
H		Does it agree with Scripture in context?
R		What fruit does it produce over time?
I		Is this Spirit-led conviction under truth or an untested feeling?
S		Can it be submitted to mature believers and church order?
T		Does it remain sound under patience, facts, and repeated testing?

Discernment Practice Sheet

Claim, message, dream, impression, teaching, or decision being tested:

Test	Evidence For	Concerns / Evidence Against
Confession of Christ		
Harmony with Scripture		
Righteous fruit		
Inner witness under truth		
Submission and community		
Time, testing, and facts		

My present conclusion: receive, reject, revise, seek counsel, or wait? Why?

Rapid Case Study

A person tells you, "God said you must make this decision tonight. Do not ask your pastor or family because they will interfere with the Spirit."

Which C.H.R.I.S.T. tests reveal problems?

What would a wise response sound like?

SESSION THREE - DEVELOPING AND PRACTICING SPIRIT-LED DISCERNMENT

The A.B.I.D.E. Formation Practices

Letter	Practice	My Next Step
A	_____ for wisdom	_____
B	_____ Christ in Scripture	_____
I	_____ examination	_____
D	_____ the truth	_____
E	_____ the body	_____

Which practice is strongest in my life?

Which practice requires immediate growth?

How the Holy Spirit May Lead

Means	What It Can Contribute	Safeguard
Scripture / illumination		
Conviction		
Wisdom / renewed reason		
Spiritual gifts		
Peace / restraint		
Godly counsel		
Providence / circumstances		
Dreams / impressions		

Authority Reminder

Scripture governs every other means. No impression, dream, prophecy, circumstance, or feeling has authority to contradict God's written Word.

Three Levels of Decision

Level	Meaning	Example
1. Clear biblical _____	Obey; no sign is required.	_____
2. Biblical _____ decision	Use principles, motives, counsel, facts, and stewardship.	_____

Level	Meaning	Example
3. Personal _____	Choose freely within holiness and wisdom.	_____

Enemies of Discernment Self-Assessment

Circle 1 (rarely) through 5 (often). Then write one corrective practice.

Threat	1	2	3	4	5	Corrective Practice
Pride	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Fear	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Haste	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Confirmation bias	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Offense / bitterness	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Isolation	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Charisma fixation	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Control	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Cynicism	1	2	3	4	5	_____

Application Workshop

Teaching Case

A teacher says, "Grace means Christians never need repentance or correction."

What does Scripture clearly establish?

What fruit, methods, motives, and facts must be examined?

What is the wisest next action?

Prophetic Case

Someone tells a married believer, "God says you should leave your spouse because I am your destiny."

What does Scripture clearly establish?

What fruit, methods, motives, and facts must be examined?

What is the wisest next action?

Opportunity Case

A lucrative position requires dishonesty and abandonment of Christian responsibilities.

What does Scripture clearly establish?

What fruit, methods, motives, and facts must be examined?

What is the wisest next action?

Relationship / Safety Case

A leader demands secrecy, unquestioned loyalty, private access, and control of money.

What does Scripture clearly establish?

What fruit, methods, motives, and facts must be examined?

What is the wisest next action?

My Personal Discernment Decision Worksheet

Decision or concern:

What does Scripture clearly command or prohibit?

What facts do I know? What am I assuming?

What do I desire, fear, resent, avoid, or stand to gain?

What fruit could each option produce?

What have mature, truthful believers said?

What should be received, rejected, revised, or delayed?

What obedient action will I take, and when?

Seven-Day Discernment Growth Plan

Day	Scripture	Prayer Focus	Practice	Reflection
1	James 1:5	Ask for wisdom	Name one bias	What did I notice?
2	Romans 12:1-2	Renew my mind	Replace one worldly pattern	What changed?
3	Hebrews 5:11-14	Maturity	Obey one clear truth	How did obedience train me?
4	1 John 4:1-6	Truth about Christ	Use C.H.R.I.S.T. on one claim	What passed or failed?
5	James 3:13-18	Wisdom from above	Examine fruit and motives	What kind of wisdom operated?
6	Acts 17:10-12	Love for Scripture	Verify a teaching in context	What did Scripture clarify?
7	Philippians 1:9-11	Love with judgment	Seek counsel and make a plan	What will I continue?

Day 1 Journal

What I read and observed:

What I sensed, tested, and learned:

My obedient response:

Day 2 Journal

What I read and observed:

What I sensed, tested, and learned:

My obedient response:

Day 3 Journal

What I read and observed:

What I sensed, tested, and learned:

My obedient response:

Day 4 Journal

What I read and observed:

What I sensed, tested, and learned:

My obedient response:

Day 5 Journal

What I read and observed:

What I sensed, tested, and learned:

My obedient response:

Day 6 Journal

What I read and observed:

What I sensed, tested, and learned:

My obedient response:

Day 7 Journal

What I read and observed:

What I sensed, tested, and learned:

My obedient response:

Final Understanding Assessment

1. Discernment is best defined as: A) suspicion B) Spirit-enabled distinguishing for obedience C) intelligence D) criticism
2. The gift of discerning of spirits is given: A) for status B) to control others C) for the common good D) to replace Scripture
3. Hebrews 5:14 teaches discernment grows through: A) age alone B) repeated use and practice C) emotion D) isolation
4. Which has the greatest governing authority? A) a dream B) a prophecy C) an open door D) clear Scripture
5. 1 John 4 first tests spiritual claims by their confession of: A) prosperity B) angels C) Jesus Christ D) miracles
6. Which is NOT a safe sign by itself? A) biblical harmony B) inner peace C) godly fruit D) accountable counsel
7. Discernment should produce: A) pride B) fear C) obedient love and holiness D) isolation
8. "God told me" language becomes abusive when it: A) invites testing B) pressures and controls others C) submits to Scripture D) remains humble
9. The Bereans modeled: A) eager reception and daily examination B) cynicism C) unquestioned loyalty D) rejection of teaching
10. When Scripture allows several wise options, believers should: A) invent a command B) manipulate a sign C) shame different choices D) use wisdom and liberty

11. Explain the difference between discernment and suspicion.

12. Explain how to "try the spirits" in a biblical manner.

13. Name three practices that develop discernment and explain why they matter.

14. Describe one area in which you will apply this study immediately.

Personal Declaration and Prayer

By the grace of God, I will not believe every voice, follow every feeling, fear every unfamiliar thing, or accept every spiritual claim. I will abide in Christ, ask for wisdom, search the Scriptures, examine fruit, receive godly counsel, test patiently, and obey the truth. Holy Spirit, make me humble, clear-minded, courageous, loving, and faithful. Let my discernment glorify Jesus and protect His people. Amen.

Signature / Date:

Quick Reference: C.H.R.I.S.T. and A.B.I.D.E.

C.H.R.I.S.T. - Test the Claim	A.B.I.D.E. - Train the Discernment
C - Confession of Christ	A - Ask for wisdom
H - Harmony with Scripture	B - Behold Christ in Scripture
R - Righteous fruit	I - Invite examination
I - Inner witness under truth	D - Do the truth
S - Submission and community	E - Engage the body
T - Time, testing, and facts	

Pastoral note: This workbook supports biblical learning and spiritual formation. It does not replace qualified medical, mental-health, legal, safeguarding, or crisis care.