

Spir·it·ed

Is That God or is That Me?

Romans 12:1-8

Message Reflection Guide

Read **Matthew 7:12-20** Jesus cited the Golden Rule in His Sermon on the Mount: "Do to others what you would have them do to you". In the same sermon, He said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you". Putting those radical commands into practice would indeed go a long way toward peace and harmony. But immediately following the Golden Rule, Jesus called for discernment. "Watch out for false prophets," He warned. "They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves"

Respect for others and discernment of the truth go hand in hand. If we have the truth, we have a message worth telling. But God extends to everyone the freedom to choose Him or reject Him. Our responsibility is to lovingly present the truth and respect the personal choice of others just as God does. - Tim Gustafson

CONVERSATION STARTER

Share a story about a recent bad decision you made and what you learned from it.

GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES – Read Romans 12:1-8

On Sunday Pastor Jason said In the days when swords were a primary weapon in battle, sharpening your sword was critical in winning the battle. Likewise; sharpened discernment is an effective weapon in the spiritual battles of life! What are some reasons you would want to make wise decisions? How has scripture informed important life decisions in your past?

Discernment is a weapon against bad decisions. Read **Galatians 5:16-26** How do you know the difference between God's voice and your own? How can scripture help you to discern God's voice?

Discernment is a weapon against anxiety and worry. Read **Matthew 6:25-34** **Is anxiety and worry a sin? Sometimes but certainly not always.** What anxieties or worries are you wrestling with right now? How do you deal with them in a healthy way? At what point can worry become sinful?

Discernment is a weapon against doubt. Read **Proverbs 3:21-23** In what ways have you dealt with doubt about faith in a healthy manner? Do you feel like God loves you less because you may have doubts? (the answer is no) Who has helped you wrestle with questions and doubts?

What are you facing right now that you need discernment from God to make a wise decision?

CHALLENGE

How can you sharpen your discernment?:

- Read the Bible.
- Listen to the Holy Spirit.
- Talk to others for confirmation.
- Trust and Obey.

Which one is most difficult for you?