

Session 4: Case Studies – Recognizing Sound and False Doctrine

(Video link – Session Introduction)



Opening Activity – “I spy” is a game parents can play with their children. It starts when a parent selects an item in the room and says – “I spy something red.” The child would look around the room and guess what that item might be. The game teaches children the skill of observation for living in this world. Let’s try to do that in the room where you are sitting. The teacher will call out items and the group will respond with their guesses about the item.

Transition: Because false teaching is so dangerous to God’s people, it is important to observe what is going on around you in the world and the church. This Session will help you “spy out” the false teaching in your country.

Small Group Exercise: The Teacher will break the large group into three (3) smaller groups and assign one of the following case studies to separate groups. Each small group should discuss their case study and identify any false information they observe. Be sure to use the tests you have been given in Session 3. How would you respond to the situation? **Then, at the appropriate time, return to the large group.** After acting out the case study, propose your biblical response to the issue. The Teacher will direct a large group discussion to insure a biblical response to the situation.

1. You have a friend who is very ill and has been diagnosed by the doctor as having HIV/aids. Your friend comes to you and is very distressed. Someone has come to them and after speaking and claiming that in Jesus name the HIV is healed, it appears that they were wrong. Your friend was told that God wants everyone to be healed and that they were not healed because they do not have enough faith.
2. Your brother and his wife are having difficulty with their finances. It seems like no matter how hard they try, they don’t have the money for the things they need. One of their friends invited them to attend his church because “the pastor there can fix their problem.” They were told that they needed to give a “seed offering” to the church of 1,000,000 shillings and that God will then bless them abundantly. They gave the amount and nothing happened so they are asking to borrow money from you. Apparently, they did not give enough and need to give more.
3. Your neighbor from church watched a local minister preaching on the TV. He told you that the minister was a great guy, very impressive in his person and in his presentation. The minister was claiming that not only is it okay to divorce your wife, but that it okay to have more than one wife. Your neighbor doesn’t have the best relationship with his wife and was wondering if he should make some changes.

Case Study Notes

Large Group Activity - Sound or False Doctrine? This activity designates one side of the room “true” and the other side “false.” As each statement is read, students move toward one side of the room. If undecided, students should stay in the middle with both sides trying to convince the students to join their side. Back up your choice with Scripture. The Teacher reads each statement and has each student move to the side that reflects their belief. They can discuss and defend their idea using Scripture. Allow them to switch sides. Think about the tests we’ve covered. Are the following statements true or false?

1. I can do whatever I want to do because God will forgive me.
2. Jesus was not born of a virgin.
3. Hell is not a real place and God is too good to send anyone there.
4. Every Christian needs to speak in tongues to be saved.
5. The Bible is the inspired Word of God.
6. Christians can lose their salvation.
7. Jesus never really died on the cross; he just passed out and was revived.
8. God created the heavens and the earth.
9. The local witch doctor is as powerful as God is.
10. Jesus was the first created being.
11. Jesus did away with the Old Testament Law

Would you like to add some of your own statements to challenge the group?

Final Activity – Get together in groups of three (3) people for a time of concluding prayer. Use John 17: 16-19 as your prayer guide. Pray for the doctrinal soundness of God’s people in:

- your country
- the church where you serve
- for yourself as you teach God’s Word.