



## Discussion Guide | January 6, 2019

**“Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?” - Jesus in Matthew 16:3 (NASB)**

A simple definition from a children's book:

“Discernment is the good sense to recognize the difference between truth and error.”

**Read Genesis 3:1-7,12; Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Revelation 20:7-8**

Adam and Eve were deceived by Satan in the form of the *crafty* serpent. That deception **in the first days** has carried forward into **these last days**. False teachers, **deceitful workers**, still masquerade as apostles of Christ or servants of righteousness. Satan will continue to use the weapon of **deceit** against God's people for as long as he is able. Our best defense is **discernment** as demonstrated by Joseph (Genesis 41:39), Abigail (1 Samuel 25:33), the men of Issachar (1 Chronicles 12:32) and the Bereans (Acts 17:11). We need to **desire** it first (Psalm 119:66 and 1 Kings 3:9-12) and then **develop** it (Hebrews 5:14).

### Discussion Questions

1. What is common between Satan's deception of Eve and the false teachers of 2 Corinthians 11?
2. On what basis can we say that we are living in “the last days”?
3. Why are deception and discernment important in the last days? (clue: 1 Timothy 4 & 2 Timothy 3)
4. What steps can we take to develop discernment in our own lives? How will that help us?
5. What aspect of this study would you like to focus on for further study? More about the threat of deception? More about “the last days”? More about how to develop discernment?