

119

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

How to “Test Everything”

TEACHING SUMMARY

Scripture commands believers to “test everything; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). This principle is foundational because each individual is responsible for what they believe before YHWH. Faith should not be built on tradition, teachers, or popular opinion, but on the Word of God.

Testing everything begins with the standard of the Torah—the instructions given by YHWH. Scripture warns against adding to or taking away from His Word (Deuteronomy 4:2), and any teaching that contradicts what has already been established must be rejected. Even interpretations of later writings must align with the already revealed Word of God.

Believers must also guard against contradictions, hidden influences, misuse of words, and logical fallacies. Proper study includes comparing multiple resources, understanding Biblical language in its original context, and recognizing cultural differences between Hebrew and Greek thinking. Through careful, disciplined testing, believers grow in maturity and walk in truth.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Believers are commanded to test everything and hold fast to what is good.
- Each person is responsible for their own faith and beliefs.
- The Torah is the foundation and standard for all truth.
- No teaching should add to or take away from the Word of God.
- Scripture does not contradict itself; apparent contradictions must be reconciled.
- Multiple resources should be used to gain fuller understanding.
- Influences from people or tradition must be tested against Scripture.

- Words must be understood according to their Biblical usage.
 - Logical fallacies can lead to false conclusions.
 - Hebrew thinking often allows for harmony where Greek thinking sees conflict.
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FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. “Test everything; hold fast what is _____.”
 2. Each believer is responsible for what they _____.
 3. The Word of God test is based on _____.
 4. We are not to _____ to or _____ from the Word of God.
 5. Sin is defined as _____ of God.
 6. Scripture should not contain _____.
 7. We should compare multiple _____ when studying.
 8. Words in Scripture must be understood according to their _____ usage.
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Challenging

1. A true prophet will teach according to the already established _____.
2. The law of God is described as _____ in Psalm 19:7.
3. Psalm 119 describes the law of God as bringing _____.
4. A “red herring” is a type of _____ fallacy.
5. The “slippery slope” argument is an appeal to _____.
6. Greek thinking often creates _____ problems.
7. Hebrew thinking may allow two ideas to be _____ at the same time.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important that each believer takes responsibility for their own faith?

2. How does the Torah serve as the foundation for testing all doctrine?

3. What are some examples of teachings today that might add to or take away from Scripture?

4. Why should contradictions in Scripture be resolved rather than accepted?

5. How can hidden influences shape what we believe without us realizing it?

6. What are practical ways to study Biblical words more accurately?

7. How can recognizing logical fallacies improve our understanding of Scripture?

8. What is an example of an “either/or” issue that might actually be “both/and”?

9. How can we apply the principle of “testing everything” in daily life?

ANSWER KEY

Basic

1. Good
 2. Believe
 3. Deuteronomy 13
 4. Add/ Take Away
 5. Breaking the Law
 6. Contradictions
 7. Resources
 8. Biblical
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Challenging

1. Word of God
2. Perfect
3. Freedom
4. Logical
5. Probability
6. Either/or
7. True