

Lesson Plans
Discerning False Teaching in the Church
Roger Hazen

Lesson Purpose: To equip believers to guard against false teaching in the church.

Overview: Because Jesus embodied the truth and because he died and rose for us, we love him and guard the truth in his body, the church. This lesson gives help in how to guard the truth.

Opening: Think about a time you were misrepresented—people didn't understand or appreciate the truth about you. Without revealing the specifics of this situation, on an index card, write words that describe your feelings in this experience. Share these feelings with the group.

Scripture Reading: John 14 is a chapter about truth—looking for truth, doubting truth, how to feel about truth, and who embodies truth. As you listen to the entire chapter, think about truth. Read John 14.

Mini-Lecture: *Discerning False Teachers*—Distribute the notetaking sheet and show the mini-lecture.

Exercises:

Exercise 1: Thinking about Jesus

- How does Jesus show he is the truth?
- For three minutes, list actions of Jesus that show truth.
- For three minutes, list words of Jesus that show truth.
- Pray together worshipping The Truth.

Exercise 2: Thinking about Scripture

- For two minutes list themes you recall from scripture.
- For two minutes list tones you have encountered in scripture.
- For two minutes list overarching storylines from scripture.
- Pray together thanking God for this truth.

Exercise 3: Thinking about False Teaching

- As a group, discuss the following question: What false teachings are currently threatening you and your church?
- Pray together, asking the Spirit of Truth to guide you into all truth.