

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

HOW TO SPOT A FALSE TEACHER

Make Every Effort — Week 19

**ICEBREAKER:** What's the best way to resist peer pressure?

**OVERVIEW:** There are an abundance of false teachers today. There always have been. False teachers operated during the days of the early church, and they are operating today — lying, deceiving, exploiting, stealing, and ruining the faith of multitudes. We must learn how to protect ourselves from false teachers so that we are not led away from the truth that sets us free. In this study we will discuss how to spot a false teacher.

1. Read 2 Peter 2:1-10. What insight, principle, or observation from this week-end's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Why is it important to be on guard against false teachers?
3. Who are the some of the prominent false teachers today?
4. What are some of the prominent false teachings today?
5. Refer back to 2 Peter 2:1-10. What are some of the characteristics of false teachers?

6. Today there are false teachers who teach lies about Jesus, as well as those who distract people from Jesus. What is the difference between these two kinds of false teachers?
7. 2 Peter 2:2 says that false teachers can have large followings. Why is this important to remember as we guard ourselves from false teachers?
8. 2 Peter 2:2 says that false teachers are often depraved; they are corrupt and immoral in their character. What are some behavioral red-flags that signal a false teacher?
9. 2 Peter 2:3 says that false teachers are often greedy — lovers of money. It is not a sin to be rich, so how can you tell the difference between greed and wealth?
10. 2 Peter 2:3 says that false teachers often deceive people with made-up stories. Why are stories so powerful? How can we avoid being deceived by made-up stories?

**The Last Word:** How do you spot a false teacher? You need to compare their character and their teaching to the Word of God.