Participant Handout

Big Idea

Dealing with false teachers requires spiritual discernment, divine weapons, and an unshakeable focus on Christ.

How to Use This Handout

- Read the passage.
- Notice what the text says.
- Bring your questions and reflections to the discussion.
- Leave space for what God is showing you.

Day 1 Afternoon - Dealing With False Teachers

Main Theme:

When false teachers distort the gospel of Jesus, people's eternal salvation is at stake.

Set the Scene:

Paul addresses the crisis by reminding the Corinthians that human tactics are completely useless in a spiritual battle.

Read:

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God...)" (2 Corinthians 10:3-4, NKJV)

Think About:

- What does it mean to "war after the flesh" when dealing with conflicts in the church?
- Why do human weapons (like anger or manipulation) fail to change someone's heart?

Notice:

- Contrast of weapons: _____
- The target of God's weapons: _____
- What this shows about God's power: _____

Apply:

What specific promise from Scripture can I use to counter a lie the enemy is trying to plant in my mind this week?

_____

_____

Day 2 - Spiritual War

Main Theme:

True spiritual warfare combines the gentleness of Christ with the boldness to tear down lies.

Set the Scene:

Paul begs the church to listen, balancing his deep pastoral love with his divine authority to confront and capture every destructive lie.

Read:

"Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ... bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" (2 Corinthians 10:1, 5, NKJV)

Think About:

- Why did the Corinthians mistake Paul's "meekness and gentleness" for weakness?
- How can a Christian be simultaneously gentle with people but ruthless with false ideas?

Notice:

- Paul's approach: _____
- The ultimate goal for our thoughts: _____
- What this shows about the character of Christ: _____

Apply:
What negative or unbiblical thought do I need to literally take captive to the obedience of Christ today?

_____

_____

Day 3 - Boasting in the Lord

Main Theme:
Comparing ourselves to others is a foolish game that only breeds spiritual pride.

Set the Scene:
Paul calls out the false teachers for their arrogant self-promotion and redirects the church to the only valid source of boasting.

Read:
"...but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise... But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." (2 Corinthians 10:12, 17, NKJV)

Think About:
- Why is measuring our spiritual progress against other people so incredibly dangerous?
- What does it practically mean to "glory in the Lord" instead of our own accomplishments?

Notice:
- The foolish action: _____
- The ultimate command: _____
- What this shows about true humility: _____

Apply:
Where in my life do I feel the heavy pressure of comparison, and how can I replace it with gratitude to God?

_____

_____

Day 4 - False Teachers Identified

Main Theme:
Evil rarely looks evil; it usually disguises itself as an angel of light.

Set the Scene:
Paul pulls the mask off the invading teachers, revealing his fear that the Corinthians are being seduced by "another Jesus."

Read:
"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers... And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." (2 Corinthians 11:13-14, NKJV)

Think About:
- Why is it so much easier to be deceived by an "angel of light" than a terrifying monster?
- How do we balance having a loving, trusting community with having sharp, biblical discernment?

Notice:
- The deception named: _____
- The ultimate disguise: _____
- What this shows about the enemy's tactics: _____

Apply:
What popular spiritual teaching or idea do I need to intentionally test against the clear teachings of the Bible?

_____

_____

Day 5 - Sufferings for the Sake of the Gospel

Main Theme:

The ultimate proof of a spiritual leader isn't their stage presence; it's their scars.

Set the Scene:

Paul lists his credentials, but instead of citing degrees and titles, he lists his beatings, shipwrecks, and suffering for the church.

Read:

“Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent…” (2 Corinthians 11:23, NKJV)

Think About:

- Why would Paul list his humiliating beatings and imprisonments as proof that he was a true apostle?
- How does the "resume of suffering" completely destroy the obsession with looking successful and wealthy?

Notice:

- The evidence of authentic ministry: _____
- The severe physical toll: _____
- What this shows about Jesus' sacrifice: _____

Apply:

How does reading Paul's list of hardships change my perspective on the minor inconveniences I face for my faith?

_____

_____

Day 6 - Appeal to the Unrepentant

Main Theme:

A spiritual reality check is essential to make sure our hearts still belong to Jesus.

Set the Scene:

After exposing the false teachers, Paul issues a powerful, blunt challenge for the church members to evaluate their own hearts.

Read:

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you…?” (2 Corinthians 13:5, NKJV)

Think About:

- Why is examining ourselves so much harder than examining the flaws of the people around us?
- What does it mean to "prove your own selves" to see if you are truly in the faith?

Notice:

- Two urgent commands: _____
- The target of the examination: _____
- What this shows about the presence of Jesus: _____

Apply:

If I were to take a completely honest spiritual diagnostic today, what hidden sin or pride would the Holy Spirit reveal?

_____

_____

Day 7 Reflection

This week I discovered:

1. _____
2. _____

3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

A truth about Jesus I want to remember:

_____

_____

One step I will take this week:

_____

_____

Prayer:

_____

_____