RECOGNIZE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

1 John 4:1–6

Key Verse 4:2

1. What had John just taught? (3:24) How else had he described this? (2:20,27) In light of it, how does he admonish us now, and why? (1; 2:26; 3:7a) Why should we not “believe every spirit”? (Jer29:8; 2Th2:2; 2Ti4:3) How else does John describe “false prophets”? (3b; 2:18)
2. What test did John give to help us recognize God’s Spirit? (Read verses 2–3.) What does it mean that Jesus Christ “has come in the flesh”? (1:1–2; Jn1:14; 1Ti3:16) Why did he do so? (Heb2:14,15,17) In light of this, what does it mean to “acknowledge” him? (1:7,9; 2:2) How can anyone do so? (1Co12:3; Jn16:13,14)
3. Read verse 3 again. What does it mean to refuse to acknowledge Jesus, and why do people do so? What can we learn here about the world in which we live?
4. How did John encourage his readers? (4) What does it mean to be “from God”? (3:10) Who is the one in us? (see verses 12,13,15) Who is “the one who is in the world”? (5:19; Jn12:31) What assurance can we find here? (4)

1. Read verses 5,6. What contrast does John make here? What seems to characterize “the viewpoint of the world”? (2:15–17) What did he mean by people “listening to us”? (1:1–3) How else does this help us have discernment? (6b)