

TACTICS

> WINNING THE BATTLE FOR TRUTH <
— IN AN AGE OF DECEPTION —

A 13-WEEK DEVOTIONAL FIELD GUIDE



RECOGNIZE DECEPTION. | THINK BIBLICALLY. | STAND CONFIDENTLY. | LIVE ON MISSION.

★
ROCKFISH CHURCH RESOURCE

TACTICS: WEEK 5

ANCIENT LIES

*Spiritual experience without surrender is just
deception dressed as discovery.*

MISSION BRIEF

Don't simply expose the counterfeit. Help someone see the genuine article—*Jesus Christ*.

TRAINING OBJECTIVE

Learning to recognize the foundational beliefs of the New Age movement, understand why they are attractive, evaluate them biblically, and lovingly point people to Christ.

Read: Deuteronomy 18:9-14

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

REMEMBER

Not everything spiritual comes from God. Know the Truth well enough to recognize the counterfeit.

Week Five Battle Rhythm:

Day	Focus	Question
1	Objective + Tactics	Recognize the counterfeit. Where do you see spirituality being offered without surrender to God?
2	Terrain	Identify the attraction. What legitimate longing—peace, purpose, healing, identity, power—is counterfeit spirituality promising to satisfy?
3	Training	Apply the Berean Filter. Examine one spiritual idea, practice, or message you encounter. Is it biblical, Christ-centered, and consistent with the Gospel?
4	Rules of Engagement	Respond with truth and grace. Practice asking thoughtful questions before correcting someone who holds a different spiritual belief.
5	Unit Cohesion + Mission	Point people to Christ. Pray for one spiritually searching person and look for an opportunity to show how Jesus fulfills the longing behind their search.

Colossians 2:8 (NIV) ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

DAY 1 | REMEMBER: *What Did We Learn?*

OBJECTIVE

RECONNECT

Counterfeits only exist because of something genuine.

Banks do not train their employees to spot counterfeit money by studying every fake bill; they train them by studying the real thing until they know it perfectly. Likewise, believers do not become discerning by obsessively studying every false New Age philosophy.

We become discerning by knowing Scripture and the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ deeply. When you are deeply anchored in godly teaching, you can spot a false gospel from a mile away.

TACTICS

The enemy's tactic is to counterfeit spiritual hunger with experiences that feel enlightening but lead the heart away from surrender to Christ.

REFOCUS

1 Timothy 6:3-5 (NIV)

³ If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, ⁴ he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

*Counterfeits only fool us when we forget
the value of what is genuine.*

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

- **What is the Key Truth?** Why are people so naturally drawn toward counterfeit spirituality today?
- **What did we learn?** How does a lack of biblical literacy make a person vulnerable to empty deceit and human tradition?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Interactive Exercise: The Genuine vs. Counterfeit Check

Set a timer for twenty uninterrupted minutes. Before you begin, write down one worldly message, habit, or form of media that has been shaping your thoughts lately. Then read Scripture and ask: What truth does God reveal here? What counterfeit message does this expose? Finally, write one sentence of commitment: “Today, I will anchor myself in God’s truth by _____.”

RETURN

Father, thank You for giving us Your Word as the ultimate standard of truth. Give me a hunger for Scripture. Train my mind to recognize anything that does not align with the sound instruction of Jesus Christ. Amen.

DAY 2 | EXAMINE: *What Does This Reveal?*

TERRAIN

RECONNECT

Human beings are naturally spiritual. Across cultures and generations, we search for meaning beyond what we can see and touch. We want to know why we are here, whether our lives matter, what happens after death, and whether someone greater than ourselves exists.

That longing is not the problem.

The danger comes when genuine spiritual hunger settles for a counterfeit.

A counterfeit works because it resembles something real. False spirituality often borrows familiar language—peace, healing, purpose, love, enlightenment, transformation, even prayer—but familiar language does not guarantee biblical truth.

Discernment begins with knowing the genuine article.

The more clearly we know Christ, the easier it becomes to recognize anything that diminishes Him, replaces Him, or offers His gifts without surrender to Him. We do not need expertise in every counterfeit; we need deep familiarity with Jesus and His Word.

Spiritual hunger can lead someone toward God—or make them vulnerable to whatever promises to satisfy it.

REFOCUS

John 14:6 (NIV)

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

*Spiritual hunger is real;
only Christ can satisfy it without deceiving us.*

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

- Discernment grows primarily through knowing Christ and Scripture, not through mastering every false belief.
- The central question is not simply, “Is this spiritual?” but “Is this true, and does it lead me to Christ?”
- The closer we walk with Jesus, the easier it becomes to recognize substitutes for Him.

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Counterfeit Check

Today, notice the spiritual messages you encounter—in conversations, media, advertising, or your own thinking.

Choose one spiritual claim and test it with three questions:

- 1) What does it promise...peace, power, healing, identity, control, or purpose?
- 2) Where does it point me for answers—myself, the universe, an experience, or Christ?
- 3) What does Scripture say? Find one passage that confirms or corrects it.

Then write one sentence:

“Because I know Christ, I know that...”

Complete it with the biblical truth you need to remember.

You don't have to know every counterfeit when you know the genuine article well.

RETURN

Father, help me know Christ so well that I recognize anything that competes with His truth. Give me wisdom to discern what is false, humility to remain grounded in Your Word, and compassion for those who are searching. Keep my heart fixed on Jesus, the only One who can truly give life. Amen.

DAY 3 | PRACTICE: *What Needs To Change?*

EQUIPMENT

RECONNECT

The pull of counterfeit spirituality is not always obvious because it often sounds empowering.

Believe in yourself. Trust your heart. Speak your truth. Manifest your future. Create the life you want.

Those messages all have something in common: *they place us at the center.*

Biblical faith moves in the opposite direction. God is not an accessory to the life we are building. He is the Creator, Lord, and rightful center of everything. We do not define truth; we receive it. We do not create reality; we live faithfully within the reality God has created. We do not save ourselves; we surrender to Christ.

That means this lesson is not merely about recognizing New Age ideas in other people. It requires us to examine where the same instincts may have quietly entered our own thinking.

Where have I begun trusting myself more than God? Where have I treated prayer as a way to get God to accomplish my plans rather than surrendering myself to His? Where have I allowed personal desires, feelings, or preferences to carry more authority than Scripture?

REFOCUS

Luke 9:23 (NIV)

²³Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Surrender begins when I stop asking God to endorse my plans and start asking Him to direct my life.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

- Our culture often treats personal feelings and desires as ultimate authority.
- Biblical faith does not begin with self-discovery; it begins with **surrender to God**.
- We do not determine truth by asking, “**What feels true to me?**” We ask, “**What has God said?**”

ACTION STEP:

Choose one area of your life where you are currently making decisions, experiencing tension, or wanting something to change. Write it down.

Then answer these questions honestly:

- What do I want to happen?
- Why do I want it?
- Have I already decided what the answer should be before asking God?
- What does Scripture say that applies to this situation?
- Am I willing to obey God if His direction conflicts with what I want?

RETURN

Father, forgive me for the ways I make life about myself. Teach me to trust Your truth above my feelings, Your wisdom above my plans, and Your authority above my desires. Show me what needs to change, and give me the courage to surrender it to You. May Jesus become greater in my life as I become less concerned with having my own way. Amen.

*Counterfeit spirituality asks God to orbit my life.
Biblical faith puts my life in orbit around God.*

DAY 4 | ENGAGE: *How Does This Prepare Me?*

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

RECONNECT

Not every powerful experience is truthful.

Something may feel peaceful, emotional, mysterious, or life-changing, but that does not automatically mean it is from God. Scripture teaches us to slow down and test what we experience.

Discernment does not mean we dismiss everything unusual. It means we bring every experience under the authority of God's Word. That kind of discernment is not cynicism. It is spiritual preparation.

A prepared believer can pause, pray, listen carefully, and ask wise questions before accepting or rejecting what someone has experienced.

The question is not simply, *"Did something spiritual happen?"*

The better question is, *"Does this lead me toward Christ, truth, and surrender?"*

When we engage people this way, we can be both honest and gentle. We do not mock their story or blindly affirm it. We listen with compassion and help them compare it to Scripture. Biblical discernment gives us confidence without losing compassion.

REFOCUS

1 Timothy 4:1 (NIV)

¹ The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

*An experience can be real without its
interpretation being true.*

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

- **Did it feel powerful?** *A strong experience is not necessarily a true one.*
- **Were they sincere?** *Sincerity does not make a belief accurate.*
- **Where did it come from?** *Every spiritual experience should be tested before it is trusted.*

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Test Before You Trust

Think of one spiritual claim, experience, testimony, video, teaching, or practice you have encountered recently.

Instead of immediately deciding whether you like it or dislike it, evaluate it with these questions:

- What exactly is being claimed?
- What authority is being used to support the claim?
- What does it say about God, Jesus, humanity, and truth?
- Does it agree with Scripture?
- Where does it lead—toward Christ, obedience, humility, and holiness, or toward self, power, experience, and control?

RETURN

Father, give me wisdom to recognize what is true and courage to reject what is false. Keep me grounded in Your Word so I am neither fearful of spiritual claims nor easily persuaded by them. Teach me to listen with compassion, test everything carefully, and point people faithfully toward Jesus. Amen.

Discernment prepares us to listen without being gullible and respond without being afraid.

DAY 5 | MULTIPLY: *Who Else Needs This?*

UNIT COHESION

RECONNECT

Discernment is not just for protecting ourselves. It prepares us to help someone else.

Many people drawn to alternative spirituality are not really searching for crystals, energy, manifestation, or tarot. They are searching for peace, hope, identity, purpose, healing, forgiveness, love, and life. That gives us a bridge.

Instead of only asking, “*What is wrong with this belief?*” ask, “*What is this person really looking for?*”

Jesus is not one more spiritual option. He is the One who meets the deepest needs beneath the search.

REFOCUS

2 Cor 11:13-15 (NIV)

¹³ *For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ.* ¹⁴ *And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*

¹⁵ *It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.*

*The practice may be counterfeit, but the longing
behind it may be very real.*

RESPOND

BATTLEFIELD ASSESSMENT (Responding to Conflict)

How to Respond When Someone Embraces New Age Beliefs

Instead of immediately correcting... Ask questions.

Examples:

- "What drew you to that belief?"
- "What problem has it helped you solve?"
- "What do you believe happens after death?"
- "Who do you believe Jesus is?"

Listen first. Build trust. Then introduce biblical truth.

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Identify One Person

Think of one person you know who seems spiritually curious, dissatisfied, or searching.

Write down:

- Their name
- What they may be searching for
- One truth about Jesus that speaks to that need

Then pray for an opportunity to have a real conversation.

If the opportunity comes, begin with a question:

"What are you hoping to find?"

Listen before you answer.

RETURN

Father, help me notice the people around me who are searching. Give me compassion to understand what they need, wisdom to speak truth clearly, and courage to point them toward Jesus. Use my life to help someone discover the new life only Christ can give. Amen.

*Our goal is not winning arguments.
Our goal is winning people.*
