

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 6

WHO'S SHAPING YOUR THINKING?

Every day we are being disciplined by someone or something.

MISSION BRIEF

Spiritual maturity requires learning to recognize which voices are leading us toward Christ and which are leading us away from Him.

TRAINING OBJECTIVE

Every believer should be able to evaluate any teaching, influencer, philosophy, podcast, social media content, or cultural narrative through the lens of Scripture.

Read: Acts 17:10-12

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

REMEMBER

The loudest voice should never automatically become the highest authority.

Week Six Battle Rhythm:

Day	Focus	Question
1	Objective + Tactics	Identify the voices. Who or what receives enough of your attention to shape the way you think?
2	Terrain	Test what sounds convincing. Am I mistaking sincerity, confidence, popularity, or emotion for truth?
3	Training	Develop discernment. What daily habit will help train me to recognize truth before I face a difficult decision?
4	Rules of Engagement	Ask better questions. Before accepting an idea or making a decision, does it align with Scripture, magnify Christ, and produce godly fruit?
5	Unit Cohesion + Mission	Guard your influence. Who else depends on me to model biblical discernment and help them evaluate the voices shaping their thinking?

Acts 17:11 (NIV) ¹¹ Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

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

OBJECTIVE

RECONNECT

We live in an era of relentless sensory overload where notifications, algorithms, advertisements, and worldly opinions demand our focus every waking second. Everything in this world is actively vying for your attention, because whoever wins your attention gains direct influence over your mind, and whoever influences your mind ultimately directs your life.

God desires for His people to walk in genuine wisdom, yet every media platform, cultural trend, and subtle message is attempting to disciple you into its own mold. These voices do not merely inform us; over time they train our instincts, shape our desires, normalize our compromises, and teach us what to love, fear, pursue, and trust.

That's why spiritual formation is never neutral. If Scripture is not discipling our minds, something else will gladly volunteer for the task. Guarding your attention is not merely a productivity tactic; it is the frontline battle for spiritual formation.

TACTICS

The enemy's tactic is to **capture attention long enough to reshape desire, truth, and authority.**

REFOCUS

James 1:5 (NIV)

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Every voice is trying to make a disciple.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

- **What is the Key Truth?** What apps, feeds, or secular voices consumed the majority of your daily attention this past week?
- **What did we learn?** How has granting those voices constant access to your attention subtly altered the way you think about success, security, or identity?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Interactive Exercise: *Reclaim Your Attention*

Choose one **30-minute block** today—your commute, lunch break, or evening routine—and make it intentionally quiet.

- Put your phone on **Do Not Disturb** and place it out of reach.
- Notice your first impulse to reach for stimulation. **What are you accustomed to filling silence with?**
- Spend **5 minutes in silence** asking God to reveal what has been occupying too much of your attention.
- Spend **10 minutes reading Scripture slowly** rather than trying to cover a lot of material.
- Spend the remaining time in prayer, returning your thoughts to what you just read.

Before you finish, write down:

The voice that has been getting too much of my attention is: _____.

The truth from God's Word I need to give more attention to is: _____.

Then make **one adjustment for the rest of this week**—remove a notification, limit an app, change what you listen to, or establish a daily period of intentional quiet.

The goal isn't simply less screen time. It's creating more room to hear the Shepherd.

RETURN

Father, You promise wisdom generously to all who seek it. Forgive me for handing my attention over to worldly distractions and cultural noise. Guard my mind, quiet the competing voices, and train my ears to hear the Shepherd's voice clearly above everything else. Amen.

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

TERRAIN

RECONNECT

Our culture frequently confuses passion with authority and confidence with credibility. Someone can be charismatic, articulate, deeply sincere, and completely convinced—and still be wrong. We are especially vulnerable when a message confirms what we already want to believe or comes from someone we admire.

Biblical discernment requires something stronger than instinct, personality, or good intentions. It means willingly submitting our assumptions, decisions, and even our favorite teachers to the authority of God's Word. Proverbs warns that a way can seem right to us and still lead us in the wrong direction.

The Bereans modeled this well. They eagerly listened to Paul, but they did not accept his teaching simply because he was persuasive or respected. They examined the Scriptures to determine whether what he said was true.

We need that same discipline today. **Listen carefully. Ask questions. Test what you hear. Then let Scripture—not sincerity, popularity, or personality—have the final word.**

REFOCUS

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

- ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
- ⁶ in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

Sincerity is not the same as truth.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

- **Key Truth:** True discernment requires trusting the Lord with all our hearts and submitting every persuasive argument to His Word rather than leaning on human understanding.
- **Core Insight:** Sincerity cannot turn error into truth; God's Word remains the sole standard.

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Test It Before You Trust It.

Think of one opinion, popular idea, piece of advice, or social media claim you recently accepted without much thought.

Write it down:

The idea: _____

Now test it with four questions:

- What is this actually claiming?
- Why did it sound convincing to me?
- What does Scripture say about it?
- Does it lead me toward Christ—or just confirm what I want to believe?

Find at least one passage of Scripture that speaks directly to the idea.

Then complete this sentence:

"I believed _____, but Scripture shows me _____."

If the idea does not hold up under biblical examination, choose one practical response today:

Reject It, Change Your Decision, Ask For Wise Counsel, or Replace It With a Biblical Truth.

RETURN

Father, I surrender my own understanding to You. Do not let me be seduced by charismatic personalities or well-intentioned cultural lies. Grant me the discernment that comes from full submission to Your direction, Your timing, and Your Word. Amen.

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

EQUIPMENT

RECONNECT

Biblical discernment is not a magical sixth sense or innate personality trait that you simply inherit. It is developed through deliberate spiritual training, repeated surrender, and a daily willingness to let God's Word correct what feels natural, popular, or convenient.

True biblical discernment comes through intentional discipline: spending uninterrupted time with God, understanding the Scriptures, praying, actively listening for His voice, and fully submitting to His will. The Bible gives us countless examples contrasting wise living with foolish living, reminding us that the fear of the Lord is where real knowledge begins.

If you do not actively cultivate an appetite for God's truth through daily fellowship, you will remain spiritually vulnerable to every foolish trend that comes along. Discernment grows as your mind is renewed, your desires are reordered, and your obedience is practiced before pressure arrives. You will not rise to the level of good intentions; you will fall back on the training you have built.

REFOCUS

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NIV)

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Key Truth: Discernment is trained through steady practice—spending time in the Word, praying, listening to God, and submitting to His will so we can live wisely and make the most of every opportunity.

Core Insight: You cannot recognize God's voice in a crisis if you are not spending quiet time listening to Him in the ordinary moments.

Accurate discernment is developed, not assumed.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

What should change today? How consistent is your daily rhythm of quiet time, prayer, and listening to God's direction?

What habit has gotten in the way? Are you treating discernment as an automatic reaction, or are you putting in the daily time to train your spiritual senses through the Word?

ACTION STEP:

Train Your Ear

Set aside **20 uninterrupted minutes** today.

First 10 minutes: Read one chapter of Scripture slowly. Don't rush. Circle, underline, or write down one verse that stands out.

Next 10 minutes: Sit quietly and pray:

"Holy Spirit, show me where my thinking, desires, or plans need to come into alignment with You."

Then write down:

What I sensed God correcting or reinforcing: _____ .

One action I will take today: _____ .

The goal is not simply to finish 20 minutes. It is to practice recognizing God's truth and responding to it.

RETURN

Holy Spirit, teach me what it means to truly fear the Lord and pursue Your wisdom daily. I commit to spending time with You, learning Your Word, and submitting to Your will. Sharpen my discernment so I may walk carefully as a wise steward of my days. Amen.

Develop a daily rhythm of quiet time, prayer, and listening to God's direction.

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

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

RECONNECT

When God appeared to young King Solomon at Gibeon and offered him anything he desired, Solomon recognized his profound limitations.

He did not ask for military triumph, immense wealth, or political status; he asked for an understanding heart to discern between good and evil. Most people approach daily decisions with shallow, consumer-minded questions: "Will this make me happy?" "Is this easy?" or "Does this feel right?"

Biblical wisdom pauses to ask deeper, God-centered questions: Does this reflect the holy character of Christ? Does it honor God's law? Truth welcomes thorough examination, while deception relies on shallow thinking.

REFOCUS

READ 1 Kings 3:5-14

1 Kings 3:5 (NIV)

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

Key Truth: Even the smartest leaders require God-given discernment between good and evil, evaluating every idea and decision by its spiritual fruit.

Core Insight: Error flourishes when we only ask self-centered questions; biblical clarity comes when we ask what honors God and builds holiness.

Ask better questions to form better answers.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

How does this affect my decisions? What questions do you typically ask before committing your time, schedule, or money to an opportunity?

What needs realignment? If God examined your private prayer life today, would He see requests centered on personal comfort or requests for an understanding heart to obey Him?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Filter an upcoming decision through three critical Berean questions:

1. Does it align with God's Word?
2. Does it magnify Christ?
3. Does it produce holy fruit in my life?

RETURN

Sovereign Lord, like Solomon, I acknowledge my utter need for Your divine insight. Forgive me for making decisions based on shallow convenience rather than righteous discernment. Give me a listening heart that desires only what honors You and distinguishes good from evil. Amen.

***Better questions lead to wiser decisions.
Biblical discernment asks not just, "What do I want?"
but, "What will honor God?"***

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

UNIT COHESION

RECONNECT

The voices shaping you will eventually influence the people around you.

That matters because discernment is not just personal protection. It is part of how we lead, encourage, and disciple others. Our culture rewards volume, outrage, confidence, and popularity, but none of those things make a message true. The people in your home, small group, workplace, or circle of influence need to see what it looks like to give God's Word the final say.

Ask yourself: **What am I modeling as trustworthy?** Do I react to headlines, trends, and personalities, or do I slow down and test what I hear against Scripture?

The way you handle information teaches others how to handle it too.

Someone else may need your calm, biblical perspective today. Not another loud opinion. Not another quick reaction. They may need someone who can say, **"Let's see what God's Word says before we decide what to believe."**

REFOCUS

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,* ¹⁷*so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

***The loudest voice should not automatically
become the highest authority.***

RESPOND

BATTLEFIELD ASSESSMENT (Testing Your Influences)

Conduct an assessment of the voices shaping your household:

Biblical Standard: *Does this influence submit to Scripture, or does it twist biblical truth to conform to the culture?*

Stewardship Impact: *Does this voice lead you to honor God with your wealth and firstfruits, or does it feed worldly comparison and greed?*

Spiritual Fruit: *Does this influence cultivate humility, righteousness, and peace, or cynicism, fear, and pride?*

Ultimate Master: *Have you allowed a loud personality, online trend, or financial desire to carry more authority than God's commands?*

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Audit The Voices

Choose the **three voices** that get the most regular access to your thinking—an influencer, podcast, news source, social feed, friend, author, or other source.

Write them down, then ask of each:

- Does this voice consistently agree with Scripture?
- What kind of fruit does it produce in me...peace, wisdom, humility...or fear, anger, envy, and pride?
- Does it help me steward my time, money, and attention toward God's priorities?
- Have I given this voice more influence than it deserves?

Now choose **one adjustment**: reduce access to an unhealthy influence, increase time in Scripture, or intentionally replace one source of cultural noise with a biblically grounded voice. Finally, identify **one person you influence** and have a conversation about what is shaping both of you.

RETURN

Jesus, You alone are the Lord and Master of my life. I refuse to let the loudest cultural voices or viral trends dictate my values, time, or stewardship. I place my firstfruits, my gifts, and my future into Your hands. Let Your Word have the final authority in everything I do. Amen

***You don't have to listen to every voice
that wants your attention.***
