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## Scriptures, Questions, & Assignment

1. What did you learn from your study of Matthew 7:15-23, 1 John 2:18-29, & 1 John 4:1-6 this past week?
2. What is the most important consideration in figuring out the source of a prophet's inspiration? Why?

**Matthew 24:24 (NLT):** *"For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones."* ([Matthew 24:24](#), NLT)

**Genesis 20:3-7 (NLT):** ... *That night God came to Abimelech in a dream and told him, "You are a dead man, for that woman you have taken is already married!"*

*But Abimelech had not slept with her yet, so he said, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation? Didn't Abraham tell me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'Yes, he is my brother.' I acted in complete innocence! My hands are clean."*

*In the dream God responded, "Yes, I know you are innocent. That's why I kept you from sinning against me, and why I did not let you touch her. Now return the woman to her husband, and he will pray for you, for he is a prophet. Then you will live ..."* ([Genesis 20:3-7](#), NLT)

**Matthew 7:15-20 (NLT):** *“Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act ... Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.*  
(**Matthew 7:15-20**, NLT)

**Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT):** *... Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control ...* (**Galatians 5:22-23**, NLT)

**Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT):** *“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.”* (**Matthew 7:21-23**, NLT)

**Deuteronomy 18:21-22 (NLT):** *“You may wonder, ‘How will we know whether or not a prophecy is from the LORD?’ If the prophet speaks in the LORD’s name but his prediction does not happen or come true, you will know that the LORD did not give that message. That prophet has spoken without my authority and need not be feared.”* (**Deuteronomy 18:21-22**, NLT)

**1 John 4:1-3 (NLT):** *Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God. But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God ...* (**1 John 4:1-3**, NLT)

**Acts 2:17-18 (NLT):** *“‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants – men and women alike – and they will prophesy.”* (**Acts 2:17-18**, NLT – quoting **Joel 2:28-30**)

**Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV):** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.* (**Proverbs 3:5-6**, NIV)

**1 John 5:11-13 (NLT):** *He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God’s Son does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.* (**1 John 5:11-13**, NLT)

## Assignment

Spend a bit of time this week considering [Psalm 23](#), [Matthew 11:28-30](#), and [Romans 8:31-39](#)

- This week, read [Psalm 23](#), [Matthew 11:28-30](#), and [Romans 8:31-39](#) through several times – try reading them in several different translations.
- What do you find comforting in these passages?
- Is there anything about these passages that makes you uncomfortable? Why do you think that is?
- Based on these passages, if you're feeling lonely, what can help?
- Based on these passages, How can you help someone who is feeling lonely?
- What is the most important message you see in these passages?
- How will what you have learned affect the way you live your life? Why?