

**Week Forty-six: "Counterfeit Guidance"**

**Day One: Individual and Small Group Guide**

**Read: Deuteronomy 18:9-16 (p. 212)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 213)**

Reflect: What would you do if you could predict the future? What does your answer to this question tell you about your desires?

Dig: Notice what comes before in the first eight verses of this chapter. Since priests and Levites were to help the people know the voice of God and trust God's voice, why does it make sense for these two topics (guidelines for priests on the one hand and detestable practices on the other) to be placed together?

How are we supposed to receive guidance?

See Deut. 18:15 (p. 214) for a First Testament answer.

See John 10:1-5 (p. 1214) for a New Testament answer.

How does the "Freedom Point" on page 214 help you understand this passage?

Of the several "detestable ways" described in verses 10-11, which are practiced by our culture? Have you ever been a part of any of these practices?

Apply: Turn to page 1508 of your Freedom in Christ Bible and pray the prayer in bold print on the last half of that page. Then go through the checklist on page 1509 and repent of any of those practices listed.

**Week Forty-six: "Counterfeit Guidance"**

**Day Two: "Esoteric Knowledge"**

**Read: Leviticus 19:31 (p. 131)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 132)**

Reflect: If "knowledge is power," especially secret knowledge or spiritual knowledge, how much power do you have?

Dig: Look at verse 30 and then also verses 32 and 33. What tie-in does our verse (verse 31) share with these other commands? What might be a common theme?

Read Isaiah 8:19-20 (p. 762) and answer these questions:

-how might laziness contribute to our temptation to look to another source of guidance?

-how does God's ultimate Guider fit in here? Take a look at Isaiah 9:6.

What does James 1:2-7 (p. 1441) tell us about the circumstances under which we might be tempted to seek other guidance?

Where are we supposed to look?

Apply: In prayer take to God those things in which you lack guidance and wisdom. Now seek him through silence and his word, trusting that he will reveal what you need to know.

## **Week Forty-six: "Counterfeit Guidance"**

### **Day Three: "The Witch of Endor"**

**Read: 1 Samuel 28 (p. 328)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 329)**

Reflect: Are witches real or just imaginary? Can people really communicate with the dead? What do you think of the TV program "Crossing Over"?

Dig: What three ways did Saul try to determine the will of God?

Look up references to these three ways in order to understand them:

Numbers 12:6 (p. 159)

Exodus 28:30 (p. 94)

Deut. 18:15 (p. 214)

What are the possibilities for the appearance of Samuel, according to the commentary? In other words, who actually called him up, and was it really Samuel?

Why might hypnosis be a dangerous practice for a believer? (see commentary)

How does the "Freedom Point" on page 328 help you to understand the state of the soul of Saul and why many claim that Saul was sorry for his sin but not truly repentant?

Apply: Turn to page 1529 in your Freedom in Christ Bible and speak aloud both the Renunciations and the Announcements.

## **Week Forty-six: "Counterfeit Guidance"**

### **Day Four: "The Rise of the New Age"**

**Read: Acts 8:4-25 (p. 1245)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 1246)**

Reflect: What New Age practices are you aware of? What do you think of them? Do they show up in movies and mass media or other ways?

Dig: What did Peter and John discern when they got to Samaria?

What might this role of leaders and authoritative teachers tell you about our current need for wise, biblically sound leaders?

What else did Peter and John discern about the heart of Simon?

Did Simon repent? (see verse 24)

How is a "spirit guide" different than the Holy Spirit in terms of:

-the need for repentance

-the place of humility

-the demands that they put on their followers/believers?

Apply: Turn to Ephesians 1:15-23 (p. 1357) and "pray" this scripture back to God paying special attention to the promises of knowledge and power from God.

**Week Forty-six: "Counterfeit Guidance"**

**Day Five: "Counterfeit Gifts"**

**Read: Exodus 7:8-13 (p. 70)**

**Read: Commentary (p. 70)**

Reflect: Are humans usually easily impressed and gullible? Are you?

Dig: Notice, in the second paragraph of the commentary, what miracles of God the magicians could at first duplicate (look up Exodus 7:11, 22; 8:7) but also note the limit of their ability.

How does the passage in Matthew 7:15-23 (p. 1085) help you understand this passage from Exodus?

How does I Corinthians 13:1-3 (p. 1320) help you understand what to look for when you are sizing up a leader or one who claims to have God's power?

Apply: Since you can fake gifts but not fruit, ask God for the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control). What specific fruit do you need to grow in? Ask God for that growth.