

## **Sermon Questions for Reflection for Sunday, May 3, 2026, and the Week of May 3, 2026.**

**Sermon Title: Perfect Communication**

**Sermon Texts: I John 4:1-6; Matthew 7:15**

Before you read the Scriptures for Sunday, May 3, 2026, and the week of May 3, 2026, I invite you to do the following:

- Find a quiet place.
- Remove any distractions from your presence, including your cellphone.
- Light a candle. The lit candle designates a sacred place where Jesus Christ is present.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to help you to understand the Scripture readings and the sermon (John 14:26).

### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. What does “test the spirits” mean to you? Have you ever “tested the spirits?” What was the occasion?
2. What criteria do you use to determine if a religious person (clergy or laity) is speaking the truth of God’s Word?

**(We will address these and other questions during Sunday’s sermon.)**

3. How is Jesus inviting you to be “ALL – IN” for Him? Who is Jesus prompting you to talk to about him during the week of May 3, 2026?
4. As you continue to read and reflect on the assigned scriptures, consider following the Lectio Divina practice outlined below. Lectio Divina means “Divine Reading” or “Sacred Reading.” Record your insights and reflect on your answers.

### **Lectio Divina or “Holy Reading”**

#### Introduction

- Lectio Divina is a methodical practice for experiencing scripture as a "Living Word," helping us connect with and deepen our awareness of God’s Presence.
- It involves three stages to help us listen to the Spirit’s prompts:
  - What did you notice?
  - What did you hear?
  - So what?
- The regular practice of Lectio Divina dates back to the 6th century, during the time of St. Benedict.

- Listen with “an ear of the heart,” as a divine conversation with the “Living Word,” remaining open to God’s guidance.

#### Lectio Divina Practice Steps

- Select and read one of the Scriptures for Sunday, May 3, 2026.
- Spend time in silence.
- Ask yourself: What did you notice?
  
- Read the selected Scripture again.
- Spend time in silence.
- Ask yourself: What did you hear?
  
- Read the selected Scripture once more.
- Spend time in silence.
- Reflect on the questions: So what? What is the Spirit calling you to do now?

Resource: Presentation by the North District’s Leadership Team of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church