



Antichrist
1 John 2
Small Group Plan

We have already seen evidence of John's two-ways metaphor:

✓ Reality vs Myth (1:1)	✓ Light vs Darkness (1:5)
✓ Confession vs Lying (1:8-10)	✓ Love vs Hate (2:9-10)
✓ Truth vs Error (2:4)	✓ Obedience vs Disobedience 2:3-6)
✓ Stumbling vs No Stumbling (2:10-11)	✓ Living Forever vs Passing Away (2:17)

Now we see another contrast — The antichrist vs the incarnate Christ.

Only in 1 and 2 John does the term “*antichrist*” occur. Read the following references aloud to the group

✓ 1 John 2:18-19	✓ 1 John 2:22-23
✓ 1 John 4:3	✓ 2 John 7

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Discuss what does “*antichrist*” mean?
- Why is it sometimes the favorite topic of televangelists?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— HEAR THE LAST-HOUR WARNING —

1 John 2:18-19

¹⁸ Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

- When I was a freshman in college, I was awakened one night by a loud ringing sound. I saw my roommate get out of his bed and stumble towards the door. The light was on in the hallway outside and he stood in the open doorway, just a black silhouette against the light. I asked him what it was, and I'll always remember his answer, "Nothing, just the fire alarm." And he climbed back in bed.
- What could cause a person to become immune to a serious warning?
- What does John mean by "the last hour" ?
- In verse 19 we learn that defectors left the church:
Why do people leave the church today?
Is every person who leaves a "defector?" Explain.

— STICK TO THE TRUTH —

1 John 2:20-23

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. ²¹ I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. ²² Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist — denying the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

- John felt that the Church was in a crisis. But, he not only attacked false teaching. He also gave positive teaching to strengthen the believers.
- We have the Holy Spirit (v. 20) — How does this strengthen our faith?
- We can know the fundamentals of our faith and can distinguish between truth and error (vs. 20-21) — How do we decide what is true and how do we apply it to life?
- We can identify the antichrist — the life that denies Jesus, an "anti" Christ (v. 22). How can we reject this way of thinking and living?
- We know that accepting Jesus is essential to finding God (v. 23). Why is Jesus the way to the Father? How does he reveal God to us?

— STAY WITH WHAT IS REALLY REAL —

1 John 2:24

²⁴ As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is what he promised us — eternal life. ²⁶ I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. ²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit — just as it has taught you, remain in him.

- Four times in these verses John encourages his readers to “remain.”
- What does John say must “remain” in us? Why is this essential?
- What does John say we must “remain” in? What will begin to happen if we don’t?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Going back over (vs. 18-27) John mentions three characteristics of the false teacher who is controlled by the “*spirit of antichrist.*”
 - (2:18–19) He Departs From The Fellowship — “they went out” (v. 19)
 - (2:20–23) He Denies The Faith — “denies that Jesus is the Christ” (v. 22)
 - (2:24–29) He Tries To Deceive — “trying to lead you astray” (v. 26)
- What lessons do you learn from seeing these characteristics?
- In view of spiritual counterfeits and the damage they bring ...
 - ✓ How does it feel to be misled? How can a person recover?
 - ✓ What causes spiritual doubt? How we find clarity?
 - ✓ How can we help to preserve and protect what is true?
 - ✓ What is the most appropriate way to deal with the counterfeit?
- Close by thanking God for the clarity of His Word and the life of His Son?