

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CHRIST

1 John 2:18-27; 4:1-6

Think about a time when you have been scammed, swindled, conned or deceived. How did you find out you'd been had? And how did it make you feel?

READ 1 JOHN 2:18-27

1. John opens this passage with a reference to 'the last hour' (v. 18). How does knowing the times help to bring assurance to Christians in these last days?
2. Although the term 'antichrist' is only found in 1 and 2 John, the same concept is reflected in several places throughout the New Testament. Split into groups and look up the following passages – what does each add to our understanding of this shadowy figure?
 - a. 2 Thessalonians 2
 - b. Matthew 24 / Mark 13
 - c. 1 & 2 John
 - d. Revelation 12-13

3. What do we learn about the backstory of these 'dodgy' teachers (vv. 18-19), and how did they come to be exposed?
4. What are some of the lies these false teachers are pedaling (vv. 22-23)? Why is there so much at stake?
5. What do you think John means by the 'anointing' that Christians have received (vv. 20-21, 27-28)? How do these verses add to our understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer and the church?

READ 1 JOHN 4:1-6

6. What are the 'tests' that John gives us for recognising dodgy teachers? What is the basis of Christian confidence in the face of this relentless assault (v. 4)?

Application:

- How good a job are we doing, as a church, at testing our teachers? What about testing *ourselves*? Where are we most in danger of leaving ourselves open to attack?

Pray that we might know the truth and remain in Christ ...