

Community Group Leader Guide

This We Know — Week 6

MAIN IDEA

John teaches that we are living in the “last hour,” and one of the marks of the last hour is the presence of antichrists — false teachers and false spirits that distort the truth about Jesus. Believers do not need to live afraid, but we do need to live awake, discerning, and anchored in the real Jesus.

ICEBREAKER

What is a movie, show, or game where you had to figure out who the “villain” was?

Examples: *Among Us*, *Mafia*, mystery movies, reality TV drama, murder mystery games, etc.

Follow-up: What usually gives the imposter away?

STARTER QUESTION

When you hear the word **antichrist**, what comes to mind first?

Do you think most people picture something biblical, something from movies, or something they have just pieced together from random end-times conversations?

READ 1 JOHN 2:18–27

2. John says “antichrist is coming,” but also says “many antichrists have come.” What is the difference?

Like we talked about on Sunday, there is a future, final Antichrist who will oppose Christ in a unique and ultimate way. But John also says the spirit of antichrist is already at work through false teachers who deny, distort, or replace the truth about Jesus.

Follow-up:

Why is it important to understand that the spirit of antichrist is not only “out there someday,” but also active in the world now?

3. In 1 John 2:19, John says, “They went out from us, but they were not of us.” What does this reveal about the false teachers John was addressing?

These were not obvious outsiders who hated Christianity from a distance. They came from within the community, claimed spiritual authority, and caused confusion among believers.

Discussion:

Why can false teaching be more dangerous when it sounds religious, spiritual, or even Christian?

READ 1 JOHN 4:1–6

4. John says, “Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits.” What does it look like to test the spirits today?

John is not calling believers to be paranoid or cynical. He is calling believers to be discerning.

Discuss the difference:

- Skepticism assumes the worst.
- Naivety believes everything.
- Discernment tests everything by the truth of God’s Word.

Follow-up:

Which one do you naturally lean toward — skepticism, naivety, or discernment?

5. What are some ways people distort Jesus today?

Examples you can riff off of if the conversation lulls:

- Jesus was just a good moral teacher.
- Jesus was only a prophet.
- Jesus was created, not eternal.
- Jesus is one way to God, but not the only way.
- Jesus forgives sin but does not call anyone to repentance.
- Jesus affirms whatever I already want to believe.
- Jesus did not really rise from the dead.
- Jesus is useful, but not Lord.

Follow-up:

Which distortions of Jesus do you think are most common in our culture?

APPLICATION

This week, pay attention to the voices shaping your view of Jesus.

Ask these questions about what you watch, read, listen to, or follow:

What does this teach me about Jesus?

Does this line up with Scripture?

Does this make Jesus smaller or greater?

Does this lead me toward worship, obedience, and faithfulness?

Would mature believers around me affirm this?

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that God would make our group and our church discerning in the last hour. Ask Him to protect us from false teaching, strengthen our confidence in Christ, and help us hold tightly to the true Jesus without fear.

BONUS LEADER CONTENT

Scripture Memory: Challenge your group this week to memorize this scripture to go along with the sermon and to encourage their hearts.

“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

1 John 4:4