



Where's Your Allegiance? Leader Guide – June 28, 2020

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. 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. 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. (1 John 2:18-27 NIV)

ICE BREAKER

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word “antichrist?”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1) John opens up this passage with the phrase “It is the last hour.” What does John mean by this? Why is this important?

- The “last hour” began when Jesus first came and will end when He returns
- John is using this to remind us that we need to up our game because the enemy is upping his game as well - remember the clip from Avengers Infinity War -> “We’re in the end game now!”

2) On Sunday, Andrew shared the three descriptions of antichrists John gives in this passage. What were they? What are some ways we’ve seen these play out within the “big C” Church and the local church?

- Depart fellowship -> they don’t stay long because they don’t belong. (vs. 19)
- Deny the faith -> they deny the person and work of Jesus (vv. 22-23)
- Deceive the faithful -> they seek to pull people away from Jesus (vs. 26)

3) Has there ever been a time that even though you profess faith in Christ that you’ve been a “practicing antichrist?” What did this look like in your life? How can your group support you here as you follow Jesus?

- Group leaders, ask the hard questions here. Also lead the way by being vulnerable and sharing how your actions have not always pointed people to Jesus

4) Andrew summarized John's description of Jesus followers with three characteristics.

What were they? How are you pursuing to grow in each of these areas?

- Run to the Father -> The only way we can be a true Jesus follower is if we recognize our sin and turn to God through Jesus. This is what John talked about in all of chapter 1.
- Receive an anointing -> Once we trust in Jesus, we are indwelt with the Holy Spirit. We no longer have to wonder what the truth is, the truth is living in us.
 - We have the same power that rose Jesus from the dead living in us.
 - The Holy Spirit teaches us God's Word (which He was the author of) and how to apply it to our lives.
- Remain faithful -> We don't just decide to follow Jesus once and that's the end of the story. We are to continually remain in Him so we have the capacity to love others.
 - When we remain in Him, He truly begins to change us from the inside out. We remain in Him by remaining in His Word and by keeping His commands.

5) We discussed on Sunday that knowledge by itself isn't deep. Obedience to the Word of God and the knowledge the Holy Spirit gives us from it is what is deep. How have you seen yourself drift towards knowledge and not obedience? Where is God calling you to be obedient?

- The Holy Spirit teaches us (gives us knowledge of) God's Word not just so that we know more about God, but so we will apply that knowledge of God to our lives and do what He calls us to do.
- Knowledge in and of itself is not wrong, but if we stay there with no action, that's when it becomes wrong – Paul describes how knowledge alone can actually “puff up” -> “But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.” (1 Corinthians 8:1 NIV)

PERSONAL REFLECTION

1) Where do you need to begin obeying God's commands? Loving others? Confessing, repenting, repeating? How can your group pray for/support you?

2) What can you do this week to focus on remaining in Jesus so that you are filled with the Holy Spirit?