**1. Motivate**

What is something you read on the internet that turned out not to be true?

* Hillary adopted an alien from outer space
* a giant meteor is headed towards earth
* it’s possible to get free medication for some ailment
* these 5 foods will keep you cancer free
* lose many pounds and inches with this special diet
* free TV with this guaranteed antenna
* microwaves ovens are killing us
* using a cell phone will attack your brain with radio waves
* get the government to pay off your mortgage
* Elvis is alive and on life support in a private hospital in Hawaii

**2. Transition**

Now days there is much confusion about what is true.

* Today we will study John’s comments on Truth
* We will conclude that Truth is found in Jesus alone.

**3. Bible Study**

A video introduction is available. Watch it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_ygj67vhl> If no Wi-Fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/z4r5r3zv>

3.1 Anchored in the Faith

Listen for a warning.

1 John 2:18-21 (NIV) 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.

What might John mean by the phrase “It is the last time” or “last hour”?

* last opportunity to get right with God
* Christ’s return is emanant
* the world is approaching a political climax
* things are a mess, God has to come and clean things up soon
* Jesus returned to heaven, now we await his return
* events will be coming together to end the current status of God’s plan for mankind and the earth

What makes you think that we are living in the last hour today?

* consider 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (NIV) "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people …
* drought in the western US, Australia resulting in fires
* plague of Covid
* locusts swarming last two years, devastating crops
* spread of humanistic attitudes, totally ignoring God

By what term did he identify those who opposed Christ and His church?

* antichrist, antichrist***s***
* those who are against the church
* those who oppose what the church believes
* those who work against the gospel message, the Truth of Scripture

What antichrists are among us today?

* those who advocate abortion
* starting to see certain politicians voicing anti-Christian attitudes and actions
* LGBT agenda
* those involved in human trafficking
* those who accuse others of racism, homophobia, xenophobia, etc. just because they disagree with them
* governments that outlaw Christianity
* hate and deceit amongst politicians, media, and entertainers
* recent education policies – promoting godless agenda at all levels

What conclusion did John draw about those who voluntarily withdrew from the fellowship of believers?

* people who leave the church, in a sense must never have really belonged there … they were not true believers
* these are people who came physically, but did not belong spiritually
* their leaving the fellowship demonstrates their unbelief

What did John’s readers have that made them different from those who left.

* an anointing from the holy one
* the presence of the Holy Spirit of God, indwelling each believer
* all believers have wisdom, understanding, spiritual knowledge from God
* the Spirit of God teaches us, illuminates Truth from Scripture

A video is available that illustrates ways to identify false religions.

View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/0_08wvk7z0>

Download it from <https://tinyurl.com/exdjtskh>

How can we identify false teachings? What are some specific teachings that make a false religion false?

* add to scripture with other books, writings, so called “new truth”
* subtract from deity of Christ … only a man, just a good teacher, just a prophet
* multiply requirement of good works to earn salvation
* divide factions amongst believers

3.2 Grounded in Who Jesus Is

Listen for where Truth is grounded.

1 John 2:22-26 (NIV) Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist--he denies the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 24 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--even eternal life. 26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.

Who did John say was a liar? What made one antichrist?

* those who deny that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah
* denies God the Father and the God the Son

What made one an antichrist? What are the attributes of such a person.

* they say Jesus was only a man
* they might say that Jesus was God, but was not fully human
* He was only a teacher, a good man, a prophet
* deny God the Father
* deny God the Son (an atheist or an agnostic)
* say he never existed
* stories about Him were made up … merely a legend, unprovable
* might also say, “if He is God, then he would/could not also have been a human”

Why are some truths about Jesus that for some folks are difficult to grasp or believe?

* they don’t fit our western rational thinking
* popular culture rejects the “fully human, fully God” concept – no such thing as God
* we’re not “terrible sinners” in need of a “savior”
* there’s some good in everyone … we don’t need to be redeemed
* we don’t need to be rescued from hell … “heaven” is things going good right here in our time and space

What truths **do** we, as believers, know about Christ?

* The moment you accepted Christ, you believed …
	+ Jesus is God’s Son.
	+ He paid for your sins on the cross.
	+ He was raised from the dead.
* When we repent from our sinful life and place our trust in Jesus Christ, we receive “eternal life.”

How would you define “eternal life”?

* personal relationship with God
* exists now in time and space while we live
* exists beyond physical death
* eternal union with God … now and throughout eternity – beyond our physical existence

So “eternal death” would be *separation* from God throughout eternity.

* consider similar to sensory depravation

3.3 Truth Leads to Righteous Living

Listen for where Truth leads.

1 John 2:27-29 (NIV) 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. 28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. 29 If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

On what can believers rely when facing those who would deceive them and lead them away from the truth concerning Jesus?

* read God’s Word, Scripture … that’s why John was writing this letter
* the presence of the Holy Spirit within us
* don’t need extra, special knowledge or secrets
* God gives us all Truth He wants us to have
* God’s Truth is reality … not counterfeit

How can believers anticipate Christ’s return with a sense of confidence?

* when we “continue in Him”
* we daily, moment by moment trust Him, submit to Him
* allow God to be the “boss” in your life

What proof can true believers produce to affirm that they have been born of God?

* we can know that everyone who does what is right has been born of Him
* demonstrate through our lives that Jesus is in charge
* God’s Holy Spirit produces in and through us the Fruit of the Spirit … love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, self-control

How does the Holy Spirit help us discern truth?

* as we read God’s Word, the Spirit illuminates what we read
* gives us understanding
* brings to our attention the specific Truth that is there that speaks to what is going on in our lives on a given day
* something said in a Bible Study or a sermon
* God sends someone into our life with an encouragement or an exhortation that we need that day

How can we remain in or have fellowship with Jesus Christ?

* fellowship implies communication, sharing
* read daily what God wants you to know – Scripture
* talk to God daily
	+ Adoration
	+ Confession
	+ Thanksgiving
	+ Supplications (appeals, petitions, requests, …)
* obedience to God’s commands

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

* submission to God’s direction in our livesApplication

Examine your life.

* Have you genuinely embraced the truth by trusting in Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?
* Look at your life. It will tell you everything you need to know.
* If you’re not sure of your relationship with God, talk to the leader of your Bible Study.

Prioritize your life.

* In light of Christ’s imminent return, are your priorities in the right order?
* If not, what changes need to be made to rearrange them?
* This week do a thorough evaluation of your priorities and be honest with yourself.
* Ask God to help you with these priorities.

Invest in someone’s life.

* Do you know someone who needs to hear the truth?
* Perhaps a neighbor, a coworker, a classmate, or a friend?
* If so, then share the truth of the gospel with them this week.
* Might they need a Bible? Find out, buy them one if appropriate.

Crossword Puzzle

Clues and words taken from 1 John 2:18 – 29 (NIV)

