

# Life in the Word

*Cornerstone Sermon-based Life Group Lesson*



Sermon Series: **1 John Series**

Sermon Title: **Counterfeits in the Church**

Scripture Passage: **1 John 2:18-27**

**Getting Started** Sharing from personal experience

When you hear the word “counterfeit” what comes to your mind? Money? Politicians? Have you ever been the victim of someone who represented themselves as honest and the “real deal” only to find out that they were anything but that? Share a situation from your life experience and how it made you feel.

**Observation** Discovering the context

Read Galatians 1:6-7. There are several kinds of counterfeit gospels being taught today. Can you name some of them and the effect they are having on the church? I’ll get you started with two that you can talk discuss as to what you think they teach and why they are so attractive to people today.

- a. The Forgiveness Only Gospel.
- b. The Consumer Gospel

How would you be able to recognize a false teacher? Use scripture to support your response.

John describes them as “wolves in sheep’s clothing.” Why do you think he used this kind of drastic and descriptive language?

What do you think John meant when he described today's time period in history as "the last hour?" (2:18). Is John referring to the end times referred to in Revelation 1:1-2 or something different? (Hint: Hebrews 1:1-2)

How does John describe the "antichrist?"

Does any other New Testament writer refer to the "antichrist" beside John?

### **Interpretation** Discovering the meaning

Many theologians and churches teach that a person who has been saved can "lose" their salvation and use 1 John 2:19 where John talks about people in the church who "went out from us" as support. Why is this interpretation of what John wrote an incorrect interpretation?

Have you ever had an experience where you had to leave a church or group because the teaching was in error? What was that experience like and what did you learn from it that you can pass on to the others in your group?

Name three ways that true disciples of Jesus can safeguard themselves against being sucked into the deceptive teachings of false teachers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## **Core Truths** Discovering Biblical truth

In your own words, share at least one core truth God has shown you in this week's study and why it is timely or significant for you.

## **Practice Makes Progress** Putting knowledge into practice

What action is the Lord prompting you to take this week as a result of being in His Word?

## **Worth Memorizing**

Scripture: <sup>24</sup>Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. <sup>25</sup>And this is the promise that he made to us<sup>[b]</sup>—eternal life. (1 John 2:24-25)

## **Prayer Time**

How can your Life Group pray for you this week?

## **Praise Time**

How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?