PREACHING CURRICULUM
Dodging Deceit
1 John 2:18-27

Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you.

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

Read 1 John 2:18-23. Who does John identify as "antichrists" in this passage? Where do they come from, and how can we identify them? What are the characteristics of someone who is an antichrist?

See verses 22 and 23. Explain the two Christological heresies (false teachings about Christ) John mentions which are characteristic of someone who is a liar and an antichrist. What does it mean to deny that Jesus is the Christ? Similarly, how might someone deny Jesus as the Son?

Read 1 John 2:24-27. According to John, how can we avoid being deceived about the identity of Jesus? What resources do we have available to us to help us dodge deceit?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

Who is Jesus? If you were to explain his identity to someone else, what would you say?

What false ideas regarding the identity of Jesus have you encountered? How do these views compare with the biblical portrayal of him?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

Why is it so important that we have the correct understanding of Jesus' identity? Does it really even matter to begin with? Can you still be a Christian and have any view of Jesus you want? Why or why not?

If it is so important to "get Jesus right", does that imply that we are actually saved by merely having correct doctrine or by "believing the right things" about him? What about the person who has simple faith in Jesus and just doesn't know very much theology or doctrine? Is there a difference between an "antichrist" who has committed one of the Christological heresies and someone who is just confused?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

What does it mean to "let what you heard from the beginning abide in you" (verse 24)? How do we actually do this? How can we help others avoid deceit as well?