



Community Group Discussion Guide

2 John 1-13 – Weekend of May 12

Over the next three weeks we are doing sermons on Loving each other, discipling each other and remembering each other. This weekend, we look at 2 John and the link between love and truth.

I. Starter Questions:

Have you experienced a relationship that had to be terminated because of an overriding issue involving your faith?

Whose home could you drop by unexpectedly and know you be welcomed (brought in)?

II. Context of the Book (historical background)

Itinerant missionaries were the means by which Christianity spread in the 80's-90's AD at the time 2 John is written. These missionaries looked to the local church to aid in their mission by providing hospitality. The problem: false teachers would mask themselves as true prophets and take advantage of believer's hospitality and fleece the flock while sowing seeds of false truth. 2 and 3 John were written to help the church sort out this problem.

III. Discussion of Scripture: 2 John 1-13

Greeting

¹The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, ²because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:

³Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.

Walking in Truth and Love

⁴I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. ⁵And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. ⁶And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. ⁷For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. ⁸Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. ⁹Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, ¹¹for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

Final Greetings

¹²Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

¹³The children of your elect sister greet you.

Brief Explanation:

1. The Greeting – (1-3) The Apostle John calls himself “elder”, not apostle, not servant, but “elder”. “To the elect lady and her children” most likely is interpreted to a local church and its members. However, it could be written to a specific woman and her children. Note the words “love and truth” repetitiously in the greeting.
2. The Relationship Between Truth and Love – (4-11) The twin themes of truth and love are laid out in this section. Walk in truth; walk in love. This theme is followed with three commands to the church: a. “love one another” (v.5) b. “watch out” (v.8) and c. “do not receive him” (v. 11).
3. The Conclusion – (12-13) True love is relational, hospitable, but must be done in truth, with wisdom and discernment. Note the contrast between the reception (face to face) of the believers, as opposed to the rejection of the deceivers.

For Discussion:

1. What themes, ideas, or key words from 2 John do you see repeated here?
Truth (4x)
Love (5x)
Command (4x)
2. This command is not a new one: “Love one another”. Where do we see this repetitiously in scripture?
 - John 13:34
 - John 15:12 and 17
 - Romans 13:8
 - 1 John 3:11 and 23
 - 1 John 4:7-8 and 11-12
3. 1 Peter 1:22 and 1 John 3:16-18 link the themes of love and truth. Why love and truth together? If the lady in this passage were to show hospitality to these false teachers who were travelling around, would her error be on the side of truth, or on the side of love? What is wrong with welcoming, showing hospitality to these “snakes, these wolves”? How is it “loving” to not receive him?
4. Spend significant time asking yourselves how could we obey the commands in scripture to love one another better?
5. How are we deceived by the enemy that “loving one another” without the standard of truth balancing our love is truly love?

6. How do we distinguish as the church which ministries we should support and show hospitality to versus the “ministries” we ought not to support? Are there ministries out there today that are fleecing the church, sowing seeds of dissension in the body of Christ?
7. Which is easier for you to do – “walk in truth” or “walk in love”?
8. Where could we, the chosen lady, reflect the love of Christ through the ministry of hospitality to the hurting, the lonely, the lost and the needy? Where could we, the chosen lady, be distracted by the cunning deception of the evil one? Let’s spur each other on to walk in truth and love.

III. Responding in Prayer:

1. Continue to pray for your one and ask the Lord to give you opportunities to share the love of Christ with your one.
2. John Wohlgemuth asks us to pray for our church for the following: Pray that we walk into the future boldly and confidently yet humbly and compassionately, taking hold of what God has in store for us. Pray for our final steps of hiring a Lead Director of Training and Residency, that God would affirm the right candidate and get him here soon. Pray for unity in the worship pastor search team, and pray that God would provide this man quickly. Though we have had a great year financially, pray for further generosity from all of us to see God push forward even more initiatives for His glory. Pray for the summer ministries upcoming, that God would bear good fruit through it all. Pray for our worship gatherings to continue to be filled with God’s power and grace, pointing people to Jesus. Pray for the multiple people who have come from painful church backgrounds yet feel at home here. Pray that every one of us becomes a disciple-maker, praying for and working for new disciples. Pray for our marriages to be pictures of the gospel relationship we have with Jesus. Pray for our church to be a safe place for people to be vulnerable and open. Pray for us to live in the freedom that God has purchased for us. Pray for more people to be sent out on permanent mission.