



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: 2 John

Read 2 John

1 The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, 2 because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever: 3 Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love. 4 I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. 5 And 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. 6 And 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. 7 For 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. 8 Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. 9 Everyone 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. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, 11 for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works. 12 Though 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. 13 The children of your elect sister greet you.

Sermon Summary:

The three epistles (or letters) of John have a lot of similarity to the gospel of John. Although the name John does not appear in any of the letters or the gospel, most scholars believe that they are all written by the same writer. They also have many similarities in style and content. The background to the letters appears to be that some who were part of the church communities that were related to the writer, left due to understandings and views that were different, even contrary to the gospel of Christ.

On one hand the writer warns them about those who have left. On the other hand, he shepherds them into what they should believe and how they should relate to one another in love. He also addresses sin, living in truth and the Spirit's operation in them.

Discussion:

1. Go to the study guide and look at the chart comparing the verses from the gospel of John and 1 John. What are the similarities and the differences?
2. Read 1 John 1:1-3. Why does the writer keep repeating 'we have seen?' What is the importance of this phrase?
3. Read 2 John 9-10. What 'go on ahead' mean?
4. How do we determine what this is?
5. Why is this warning needed today? Why does it matter?
6. What should we do about it?
7. Read John 17:3 and 1 John 5:20. What is it that we should know? Why do we need to know this?
8. Why do we need these letters?

End with Prayer