

Study Guide - 2John 1-13 (New International Version)

Background:

- **Author/date:** This epistle (letter) is written by the apostle John to an individual and was written around the same time as 1 John (AD 90-95). This was close to the end of John's life.
- **Purpose:** deals with same issue with false teachers coming into the church (like 1 John dealt with). The difference between this letter and 1 John is that 2 John addresses a specific person or group of individuals. This is a cautionary letter to encourage discernment about who is allowed the midst of the church. If those who teach false doctrine (denying the Word of God) are given a place through the goodness of Christian hospitality (much like some in the church today sanitize known hidden or overt sin out of "love" for the person), it will harm the church and destroy the very foundational truths of our faith. Yes, a Christian must love yet that love should never negate the truth of God that comes to us through His Word. Love must be in perfect unity with God's truth. If it doesn't, then it is not God's love; but the world's deceptive imitation of it.

Scriptures in Study Guide:

Scriptures this week are in the NIV (New International Version). To make things easier, the actual verses will be included in your daily lessons to help you with the missing words. If you have any questions, write them down and we'll discuss them when we meet Sunday mornings at 9:45 am.

Day 1 - 2John - verses 1-3

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **2John verses 1-3** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

1 The elder, To the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth— **2** because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever: **3** Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.

2John - verse 1:

- The _____, To the lady _____ by God and to her children, whom I love in the _____—and not I only, but also _____ who know the truth—
- **Questions:**
 - What is the definition of "elder"? _____
 - John refers to himself as "the elder" due to "his advanced age, his spiritual authority over the congregations in Asian Minor, and the strength of his own personal eyewitness testimony to the life of Jesus and all that Jesus taught". (MacArthur Study Bible; pp. 1713)
 - Who is/are this epistle (letter) written to? _____
 - Who was this lady chosen by? _____
 - Since this is a lady who was chosen by God, what would that tell us about the Source of our salvation? _____
 - Write **Ephesians 1:4-6:** _____

- According to **Ephesians 1:4-6**, That you just wrote out, how long ago were we chosen to be God's child (to be saved)? _____
- How does John say he loves this "lady" and her "children"? _____
- In order to love as God loves and be united in this love, what must all of us know? _____

2John - verse 2:

- because of the truth, which _____ in us and will be with us _____:
- **Question** - According to verse 2, what lives within all of us (as believers in Jesus Christ) and will be with us forever? _____

2John - verse 3:

- Grace, _____ and peace from God the _____ and from Jesus Christ, the Father's _____, will be with us in _____ and love.
- **Questions:**
- According to **2John Verse 3**,
 - what is the relationship between God and Jesus Christ? _____.
 - what 3 things from God the Father and Jesus Christ, God's Son does the apostle John greet his reader with? Grace, _____ and _____.
 - If we have grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ, God's Son, what will be with us? _____ and _____.

Day 2 - 2John -verses 4-6

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **2John verses 4-6** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

4 It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. **5** And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. **6** And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

2John - verse 4:

- It has given me great _____ to find some of your children _____ in the truth, just as the Father _____ us.
- **Questions:**
 - According to **2John Verse 4**,
 - What gives John great joy? _____
 - Why does John have joy to find some of God's children walking in the truth? _____

• Write out **John 14:21** - _____

• Write out **1John 2:3** - _____

As we learn from the truth of God's Word (Scripture) in **John 14:21** and **1John 2:3**, why do you think that John finds joy when he finds people walking (living) as our Father God has commanded?

2John - verse 5:

- And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new _____ but one we have had from the _____. I ask that we _____ one another.
- **Questions:**
- What is John not writing to this dear lady?
- Since this is not a new command that John is writing this dear lady, how long has she had this command? _____
- Write out **John 1:1-2** -

- What do you think John means by the “beginning” in **2John 5**? The beginning of what?
_____.

2John - verse 6:

- And this is love: that we walk in _____ to his commands. As you have _____ from the beginning, his _____ is that you walk in love.
- **Question:** how does John define love in this verse?

Day 3 - 2John -verses 7

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **2John verse 7** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

7 I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

2John - verse 7:

- I say this because many _____, who do not _____ Jesus Christ as coming in the _____, have gone out _____ the world.
- Any _____ person is the deceiver and the _____.
- **Questions:**
 - Why does John says this? _____.
 - How does John describe the “many deceivers” that have “gone out into the world”? _____.
 - If anyone says that Jesus Christ has not come in the flesh, what are the 2 ways that John describes that person? As a deceiver and the _____.

Let's delve into what the apostle John means here by saying that a person who does not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh is the “antichrist”. If we break the word down - “anti” and “christ”, it defines itself - someone who is against Christ. This would be someone who would try to “empty” out the Authority of Who Jesus is and was and always will be. He is Deity - God. As God, His commands are God's commands.

Write out **1John 2:18** _____

There will be a final antichrist, but there will be smaller ones who will creep into the church through false teaching. This is why it is to our benefit/protection to know God's Word and the reason for John's writings.

Write out **John 1:14** _____

Questions:

According to **John 1:14**,

- what did the “Word” become? _____
- where did the “Word” that “became flesh” dwell? _____
- what do the see? _____
- how did John describe “His glory”? _____

To finish out today, let’s look at **Matthew 17:1-8**:

17 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. **2** There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. **3** Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. **4** Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” **5** While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” **6** When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. **7** But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” **8** When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. **9** As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Questions:

- In **Matthew 17:1**, who did Jesus take with Him to the high mountain? Peter, James and _____
- What happened in **Matthew 17:2**? Jesus was _____ before them. Jesus’ face _____ like the sun and his clothes became as _____ as light.
- In **Matthew 17:5**, what did the “voice from the cloud” say? “This is my _____, whom I _____; with him I am well _____. Listen to _____!”
- Who do you think the voice from the cloud was? _____
- As we read **Matthew 17:1-9**, what did Peter, James and John witness of Jesus? His _____.

John was a physical eyewitness to the Deity of Christ. Although we do not have the physical revelation of Jesus in the flesh as the apostle John had, we do have the revelation of God’s Word through John’s tangible testimony. The truth of God’s Word will always expose false teachers. In the midst of the confusion of the world, it brings clarity and equips us to not be deceived. We must, though, be intentional through prayer and time to study God’s Word. We can’t know what we don’t make time to learn.

Day 4 - 2John -verses 8-11

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **2John 5:8-11** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

8 Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.

9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them. **11** Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.

2John - verse 8:

- _____ out that you do _____ lose what we have _____ for, but that you may be rewarded _____.
- **Questions:**
- What are they suppose to watch out for? _____
- Why should they be careful not to loose what they have worked for?

As Christians, we are saved to do the work of God. John is cautioning them to be careful to not be part of work that is actually against the cause of Christ. Again, the greatest deterrent for us is knowledge of God's Word and what it truly says.

2John - verse 9:

- Anyone who runs _____ and does not _____ in the teaching of _____ does _____ have God;
- whoever _____ in the teaching has _____ the Father and the Son.
- **Questions** - as we look at **2John verse 9**, how does John define those who have Christ and those who do not?
 - Those who don't have Christ do not continue in what _____
 - Those who do have Christ continue in Who's teaching?
 - Those who do have Christ have both Who? _____ and _____

2John - verse 10:

- If anyone _____ to you and does not _____ this teaching, do _____ t take them into your house or _____ them.
- **Questions:**
 - If anyone doesn't bring the teachings of Jesus Christ, what are we not suppose to do?

2John - verse 11:

- _____ who welcomes them _____ in their wicked work.
- **Question:** if we do welcome someone that does not hold to the teachings of Jesus Christ, what does **2John verse 11** say that we are doing?

Church attendance and church membership are not the same as a whole. A person can attend a church service without being a member. When a person becomes a member of a church, they are becoming "one" with the "body of Christ". This means that they unite with the teachings of Christ. If a church allows membership with someone who does not adhere to the teachings of Christ, then according to **2John verse 11**, what do they share in?

Day 5 - 2John 5:12-13

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word. Read **2John 5:12-13** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

12 I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete. **13** The children of your sister, who is chosen by God, send their greetings.

2John - verse 12:

- I have _____ to write to you, but I do not want to use _____ and ink.
- Instead, I hope to _____ you and talk with you face to _____, so that our joy may be _____.
- **Questions:**
 - What does John have to do to them? _____
 - Instead of writing with paper and ink, what does John want to do? _____
 - Why does John want to talk to the readers of this letter “face to face”? _____

2John - verse 13:

- The _____ of your sister, who is chosen by _____, send their greetings.
- **Questions:**
 - Who sends the readers of the letter greetings? _____
 - Who are these “children of your sister” chosen by? _____

Notes: