


## The Message of Second John

# TALKING WALKINGPOINTS

## Leaders' Guide

A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

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## Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- 1 How would you complete this sentence: "Love is \_\_\_\_\_"?
- 2 Now, read through 2 John aloud, and then, with your Bible open, consider the following questions:
  - How does v. 6 complete the sentence, "Love is \_\_\_\_\_"?
- 3 What did Jesus say in John 14:15?
- 4 What do you think—is the Old Testament "rules-based" but the New Testament "grace-based"?
- 5 • Which do you find harder to do: "telling the truth to people" or "being loving towards others"?
- 6 Second John speaks of both. Mark the words "truth" (v. 1 [2x], 2, 3 & 4) and "love" (v. 1, 3, 5 & 6). Does John appear to have more difficulty with one or the other? Explain your thoughts.
- 7 In 2 John 7-9, how do you see these issues of truth and love interacting with each other?
- 8 In v. 10-11 we see that false teachers were infiltrating this congregation, seeking to make converts, and taking advantage of Christian hospitality to advance their cause. How might an imbalance between truth and love render believers vulnerable to attack? (See Hebrews 5:12–14 & 1 Peter 4:9.)
- 9 Christians need to wisely discern the line between clear biblical commands to hospitality (1 Peter 4:8-9), and naive acceptance of just anyone who claims to be a believer (v. 9-11)—lest we participate in their evil deeds (v. 11). In our day, false teachers don't have to knock on our door—they easily slip into our homes via the internet! How confident are you that you could discern if a teacher "has gone too far" (v. 9)?
- 10 What **two** things does John call false teachers (v. 7)?
- 11 John is confident that his readers are elect (v. 1 & 13), and cannot forfeit heaven—but what is at risk (v.8)?
- 12 Read 1 Corinthians 3:8–15. From what we've seen in 2 John, make a list of things which would qualify as "gold, silver, precious stones" and those things which qualify as "wood, hay, straw".
- 13 **How** do **you** take care to make sure that you are "building on the one foundation, Jesus Christ" (v. 10c-11)?

- 1 Without giving your thoughts, ask your group for their responses.  
Google says love is “an intense affection for another person, or a strong liking for something.”
- 2 Did you, as a group, read through 2 John aloud? Very good. OK, onto the answers.  
**This** is love: that we **walk according to His commandments**.
- 3 Jesus said: “**If** you love Me, **you will keep My commandments**.” (see also 1 John 5:3).
- 4 **Almost everyone thinks this—but nothing could be further from the truth.**  
For example, God **prefaces** the Ten Commandments with the statement that he **already is** their God, **so now, in light of that relationship**, live this way.” Relationship precedes regulation.
- 5 Don’t take too long on this—it’s just a segue to the more important questions which follow.
- 6 There’s no conflict between truth and love—John dearly loves them, and rejoices that they walk in truth.
- 7 Deceivers don’t have the truth, and it is loving for John to warn believers about them.
- 8 Immature believers often are unaware of the existence of deceivers, or of their danger. They may assume that everyone who claims to represent Christ teaches biblical truth. There also is a lot of mis-information about judging (we are commanded to judge those who claim to follow Christ, and not to judge non-believers. Relativism has also taught us to think that contradictory “truths” can all be “true”.
- 9 Take time to really explore this with your group!
- 10 “deceivers” and “antichrists”!
- 11 Our place in heaven is secure—but there will be rewards and loss-of-rewards in heaven.
- 12 “**Gold, silver, precious stones**”, leading to **gaining** heavenly rewards:
  - walking in the truth (v. 4)
  - lovingly walking according to God’s commands (v. 6)
  - they are awaiting rewards (v. 8)—the question/concern is, how much?
  - they are hospitable (v. 10)—perhaps naiively so!

“**Wood, hay, straw**”, leading to **loss of** heavenly rewards:

  - being a deceiver/antichrist (v. 7)
  - receiving/helping a deceiver/antichrist (v. 11)
- 13 You may need to “prime the pump”, so be prepared with your own answer to this question.  
(But wait for others to think and answer. Check your watch—20 seconds feels like an eternity!)

## Second John

- 1 The elder:  
To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth —  
and not only I, but also all who know the truth —
- 2 because of the truth that remains 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 Son of the Father, in truth and love.
- 4 I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth,  
in keeping with a command we have received from the Father.
- 5 So now I ask you, dear lady — not as if I were writing you a new command,  
but one we have had from the beginning — that we love one another.
- 6 This is love: that we walk according to his commands.  
This is the command as you have heard it from the beginning: that you walk in love.
- 7 Many deceivers have gone out into the world;  
they do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh.  
This is the deceiver and the antichrist.
- 8 Watch yourselves so that you don't lose what we have worked for,  
but that you may receive a full reward.
- 9 Anyone who does not remain in Christ's teaching but goes beyond it does not have God.  
The one who remains in that teaching, this one 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 home, and do not greet him;
- 11 for the one who greets him shares in his evil works.
- 12 Though I have many things to write to you, I don't want to 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 send you greetings.

## Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

*"Five Question Bible Study" (see below) is useful for studying any topic.  
Let's use it to explore the importance of truth and love...*

**Monday**—Read Ephesians 4:11–16.

**Tuesday**—Read 1 Peter 1:22–23.

**Wednesday**—Read 1 John 2:4–6.

**Thursday**—Read 1 John 3:13–19.

**Friday**—Read 3 John 1–4.

**Saturday**—Read 2 Thessalonians 2:8–17.

Need blank copies for doing more

"Five Question Bible Study"?

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### Five Question Bible Study

Bible Text: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]