

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

2 JOHN

The epistle or letter that has come to be known as 2 John begins by identifying the author simply as "The Elder". As you read through the letter, you will find many similarities in vocabulary and style to the gospel of John. It is also believed that although many of the disciples and church leaders were called elders, John being the oldest remaining disciple was called "The Elder". John was often referred to in his early years as a "Son of Thunder", but he loved to refer to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved". Truly, the emphasis of John's gospel and his three letters was love. Tradition holds that John spent most of his later years in Ephesus where it is believed he wrote this second epistle around 90 A.D. How it must have saddened John to write the words of Christ in Revelation 2:1-4 to his old church, declaring that they had lost their first love.

FIRST DAY: Read all of 2 John See page 7.

1. To whom is this letter written?

- a. There are two opinions as to who *the elect lady and her children* are. Figuratively, the *elect lady* may refer to a local church and *her children* may refer to members of that church. Literally, the *elect lady* may be an unnamed individual. A possible Greek translation of the phrase *elect lady* is the lady Electa. Electa was the name of a Christian friend of John's, a mother who was well known in her community, whose sister's children were probably residents of Ephesus.

However, the general consensus is that this letter was sent to a group of believers, described as *elect* to remind them (and all Christians) of the blessed calling of being chosen and set apart from the world for a holy purpose. Whether the letter was written to a specific church or to an individual, we know it was written to Christians and thus it would be profitable for us to glean from John's instructions and warnings.

Record what you learned about the recipient of this letter.

2. Describe the conditions existing in the church at the time of the writing of 2 John.

3. Mark the following key words on your Observation Worksheet. Use a different color or symbol to identify each word.

Truth
love

doctrine
walk

abide(s)
deceiver

commandment

4. What were some of John's purposes for writing this letter?

5. As you read this epistle, describe your overall impressions.

a. What topics are covered in this letter?

1) Which topic are you most interested in studying further?

*What makes the difference is not how many times you have been through the Bible,
but how many times and how thoroughly the Bible has been through you.*

SECOND DAY:

1. The Second letter of John can be divided into four paragraph divisions. Write a title or summary statement for each paragraph division. **Note:** A summary statement is a phrase or sentence which describes what you think the section is about.

Verses 1-3

Verses 4-6

Verses 7-11

Verses 12-13

2. Keeping in mind the key words, what do you think is the key verse of 2 John?

3. Taking into consideration the key words, paragraph summaries, and the key verse write a brief title for the book of 2 John.
4. Complete the chart below using the information you have previously read or recorded in this lesson.

2 JOHN AT A GLANCE

THEME/TITLE OF 2 JOHN:

PARAGRAPH THEMES
VERSES 1-3
VERSES 4-6
VERSES 7-11
VERSES 12-13

KEY VERSE:

THIRD DAY: Read 2 John 1-3

1. The key word *truth* is used four times in this section. Record what John wrote about truth in verses 1-3.

2. Look up the following verses and record the insights you gained about Biblical *truth*:

John 1:17

John 8:32

John 14:6

Galatians 2:14

Ephesians 1:13

1 Thessalonians 2:13

3. *because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever* 2 John 2. List some of the benefits of *truth which abides*:

John 15:7

1 John 2:14

1 Peter 1:23

a. Answer one of the following:

How has *the truth abiding* in you caused you to love *truth*? OR How has the *Truth* (Jesus) *abiding* in you caused you to love the *Truth*?

*The Cross is God's truth about us,
and therefore it is the only power which can make us truthful.
When we know the Cross, we are no longer afraid of the truth.*

- D. Bonhoeffer

FOURTH DAY: Read 2 John 4-6

1. *Love* is a key word in this paragraph division. What is written about *love*?
2. Verses 4-6 reiterate John's statements in 1 John regarding love. What further truths does 1 John reveal about walking in the *commandment* to love?

1 John 2:5

1 John 2:10

1 John 2:15

1 John 3:14

1 John 3:16

1 John 4:7

1 John 4:19

- a. How would *walking in love* be a deterrent to falling prey to *deceivers*?

FIFTH DAY: Read 2 John 7-11

1. This paragraph division addresses the problem of *deceivers*. Record what John wrote about these *deceivers*.
2. According to verse 9, what makes the difference between a *deceiver* and one who *has both the Father and the Son*?
 - a. Describe *abiding in the doctrine of Christ*.
3. *Abide in the doctrine of Christ* (verse 9) suggests there are boundaries set for us to live within. Does this seem confining to you or liberating? Why?

4. The philosophy of the world today is tolerance. Christians are accused of being narrow minded and judgmental. Read John's instructions regarding deceivers in verses 10 and 11. Why do you think John taking such a strong stance is necessary?

SIXTH DAY: Read 2 John 12-13

1. Describe Paul's heart for the recipients of this letter using verses 1, 12, and 13.
 - a. How does his expression of love and concern reflect a life that *walks* what he has written?
2. Scan the epistle of 2 John. Using the key word *abide*, summarize the book of 2 John as it could be divided into two sections.

Verses 1-6 Abide in _____.

Verses 7-13 Do not abide with _____.
3. Look up the definition of the word *abide* and describe what it means to you personally to *abide in truth and love*.
4. How has the study of this book impressed you with the importance of who you *abide* with?

*The fear of the LORD leads to life,
And he who has it will abide in satisfaction.
- Proverbs 19:23*

2 JOHN

Observation Worksheet

- ¹ The Elder, to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth,
- ² because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:
- ³ Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.
- ⁴ I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.
- ⁵ And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another.
- ⁶ This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.
- ⁷ For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.
- ⁸ Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.
- ⁹ Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.
- ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;
- ¹¹ for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.
- ¹² Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.
- ¹³ The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.