

THE BOOK OF

# 2 John

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

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CREATED BY STEVE CASE

# A Word of Encouragement, A Word of Warning

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Which do you prefer: A word of encouragement or a word of warning?

## READ 2 John 1:1–13.

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### 1. Why was 2 John written?

- A. It's from "the Elder" so people assume that was John when he had become old.
- B. It reads like a follow-up from 1 John.
- C. A letter from John to his church—probably Ephesus.
- D. A letter from John and his church to another church.
- E. We really don't need it since we have this whole message in 1 John.
- F. The Holy Spirit inspired John to write this short letter.
- G. A quick note on a small-sized papyrus from John's time period.
- H. John was exiled on the Island of Patmos.
- I. Other.

### 2. Who is the intended audience for this short letter?

- A. A "lady"—Greek translation of the feminine "lord" used only here in the New Testament.
- B. A wealthy lady who hosted a church in her large house.
- C. A lady for whom John had tremendous respect and love.
- D. Mary the mother of Jesus.
- E. All the women in a certain church.
- F. All the people in a certain church.
- G. People who read the Bible, including 2 John, today.
- H. Churches like Ephesus who have lost their first love.
- I. Other.

### 3. How can a person lose Jesus after accepting him?

- A. Deception from a false teacher.
- B. Conspiracy theories.
- C. Distractions from the things of this world.
- D. Not being connected to a community of faith—the Body of Christ.
- E. A failure to put deep roots into Christ.
- F. Hardship—one bad experience can change everything.
- G. Accepting Christ, but not continuing to grow in faith and love.
- H. If you really accepted Jesus, you can't ever lose him.
- I. Other.

**4. What does “love one another” (vs. 5) mean? Which is easiest for you?**

- A. Be nice.
- B. Submit.
- C. Do the right thing.
- D. Sacrificial giving.
- E. Honest transparency.
- F. Forgiving, and asking for forgiveness.
- G. The book of *1 John* gives more details on loving one another.
- H. Other.

**5. Why don't some people believe in Jesus Christ as God?**

- A. It's too far-fetched—God becoming human? Death? Resurrection?
- B. Their parents didn't pass on their faith to their own children.
- C. Believing in Jesus doesn't work in today's world.
- D. They believed at one time, but things changed.
- E. They believed at one time, but it didn't take deep root within them.
- F. Belief in Jesus is for children—something mature people grow out of.
- G. Believing “Jesus is God” is outdated and irrelevant.
- H. Other.

**6. What is outside the teaching of Christ (vs. 9)?**

- A. Church traditions.
- B. Good behavior matters.
- C. You only need faith.
- D. You only need love.
- E. Doctrinal statements after Christ was on earth.
- F. Doctrinal statements before Christ was on earth.
- G. Current issues in our time that Christ never addressed in his time.
- H. Other.

**7. What do you find encouraging from this letter? What do you find as a warning?**

**8. What completes your joy (vs. 12)?**

