**A TRUTH AND LOVE THAT PREVAILS**

**2 John 1:1-13**

**THE BIG IDEA: Christians who remain in the truth and who love biblically will identify and reject false teachers.**

* **When you were born again as a child of God by trusting Jesus to save you, you were not simply gaining a relationship with the Lord as His child, but you joined the family of God with countless brothers and sisters in Christ!**
* **God has adopted you into His family to be a part of His Kingdom work through the local church on mission for His glory!**
* **Christian love is first and foremost giving love, although it does not lack other elements such as affection.**

**WALKING IN THE TRUTH MEANS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ A LIFE OF LOVE FOR GOD AND OTHERS**

* *“I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, in keeping with a command we have received from the Father.”* (2 John 1:4)
* *“Now this is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another as he commanded us.”* (1 John 3:23)
* *“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.”* (2 John 1:5-6)
* **Living a lifestyle of loving God and loving others biblically is inseparable from the new life in Christ.**
* **A pastor or teacher’s authority to command the church is only validated if he is communicating the Word of God as outlined in the Bible.**
* **We need more preachers and teachers who lead with “The Bible says…” rather than “God told me to tell you…!”**
* **Living in obedience to God’s commands hinges on two loves: Loving God and Loving Others.**

**REMAINING IN THE TRUTH INVOLVES \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ FOR THE TRUTH**

* *“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.”* (vss. 7-11)

* **Not only did Jesus the Christ live, die, and resurrect from the dead, He lives today and forever.**
* **We guard ourselves from false teaching and false teachers by studying the Bible and knowing what it actually says.**
* **The Bible contains all we need to know God, to know His commands, to live the Truth, and fulfill His purposes for us as Kingdom citizens.**
* **When you support preachers who are spreading false teaching on TV and the Internet, you are facilitating the work of the antichrist.**
* **A Church must be united in its stand against false teachers and false teaching so that the Truth can flourish.**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Ice Breaker:** What is your favorite holiday activity (Thanksgiving or Christmas)?

**Start Thinking:**

* + Who is the “Elect Lady and her children” in vs. 1?
  + How many times does John use the following words in this letter: **truth, love, walk/walking, command(s), teaching**? Why is John so repetitive?
  + What are some warnings John gives in this letter?
  + Who are the antichrists mentioned in verse 7?

**Digging Deeper:**

* + How do you view being a child of God in relation to other Christians, particularly in your local church?
  + How does “walking in truth” go beyond just “knowing” the truth of God’s Word?
  + How do you guard yourself against falling prey to false teachers/teaching? Why is this still such a problem in the Church at large today when we have the Bible to guide us in all truth?
  + What does John warn will happen for Christians who allow themselves to be deceived by false teachers? (see vs. 8)
  + How can Christians today demonstrate a biblical love to the community? Be specific.
  + What is your big takeaway from this message?