

Notes on 2 John for HGs 26 April 2023

Second John is a short letter to a church under the threat of false teaching. I hope our studies in HGs help us to be alert to the same danger and feel equipped to respond rightly.

Resources

There are some helpful introductory notes on the book of 2 John here:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/2-john/#overview>

A more verse-by-verse commentary is available here:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/2-john/>

Study

John uses some words that could side-track discussions away from the main point of our studies. Rather than a lengthy conversation, it might be worth defining unfamiliar words for the group. Such as:

- “The elder” = the author (likely John an apostle)
- “Elect lady” = the church (see 2:5)
- “Antichrist” = those who oppose the apostolic teaching on the person of Jesus (see 1 John 2:18)

Please do read through 2 John yourself and work through the resources above. I have suggested some questions below (aim of question in italics):

1. [Intro question] What’s more important for a Christian: love or truth? *The aim is to draw out some of the issues around love often being seen as unconnected/in opposition to truth and vice versa. Of course, both are needed!*
2. What repeated words can you spot in the letter? How does John connect them? *I think it’s worth seeing the importance of “truth” and “love”—seeing that love should be according to the truth.*
3. What can you spot in the letter about the situation the church is facing? *This question is aimed at helping us see the context of this church, facing false teaching (v7–8).*
4. How does John equip the church to respond to the danger? *This is designed to bring out the idea of “walking according to the truth” (v4) and “according to his commands” (v5) plus the advice to avoid (v10).*
5. Why is it so important for the church in 2 John to not “walk” with those who do not abide in the teaching of Christ (v9)? *This question is designed to draw out the danger of v8.*
6. How should the church to respond to the threat to the truth? *Drawing out v10–11.*

7. How might John's message apply to different areas of St Mary's?
 - a. Us, as church members?
 - b. The various group leaders?
 - c. The leadership of the church?
 - d. Our relationship with the wider church?
8. How can we encourage each other to "walk in the truth" as a HG?