

STUDY NOTES

POSTCARDS: 2 JOHN

A series at New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Experiencing Truth and Love” on 5/5/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: 2 JOHN

EITHER TRUTH OR LOVE

Most people tend to emphasize either truth or love in their lives. This starts with the way people view God. Some people view God as only seeking truth. Others view him as only loving and accepting. However we view God probably affects our behavior. The one we emphasize in our beliefs probably stands out more strongly in our actions.

- Which character trait of God—truth or love—do you emphasize in your beliefs about him?
- Which character trait—truth or love—stands out more strongly in your personality?

TRUTH AND LOVE IN JESUS

Many people don't act in both truth and love, because people don't believe that Jesus was both truth and love. **Read John 1:14.** John describes Jesus as the full expression of God the Father, full of both love and truth. Jesus wasn't partially love and partially truth. He came full of both.

To act without both love and truth is to deny all that Jesus was and is.

- What does it mean to you that Jesus was full of truth? Share a story that stands out to you highlighting the truth of Jesus which resonates with you from his ministry.
- What does it mean to you that Jesus was full of love? Share a story that stands out to you highlighting the love of Jesus which resonates with you from his ministry.

ACTING IN TRUTH AND LOVE

The moment we place our faith in Jesus, we are called to imitate him in our lives. That means we are also called to have a passionate pursuit of righteousness. But not only that, we are also called to show a tender and compassionate kindness. If we are missing either of those things, then we are cheapening everything about how Jesus came in the flesh.

If we are missing either truth or love lived out in our lives, then we are missing the fullness of Jesus.

- How does stripping either truth or love from our lives slowly start to deceive us into stripping away the truth or love about Jesus?

EXPERIENCING TRUTH AND LOVE

You will never fully interact with others in truth and love unless you believe that Jesus's truth and love applies to you personally. Many of us try to hide ourselves from God thinking that somehow he can't see the truth about us. We don't believe that God could truly love us or accept us if we were fully exposed. But here's the greatest part about God's truth and love: God knows that you are a mess, but he loves you anyway; and part of God's love for you is that he won't leave you where you currently are.

God knows the deepest truth about you, yet he loves you anyway.

- Where is Jesus moving you out of sin in your life?
- Where do you need to hear that Jesus loves you in spite of how you feel?
- Pray with each other to experience the truth and love of Jesus this week.