**1. Motivate**

In what situations today do we see truth questioned?

* people who say there are many versions of truth
* when politicians deny what they said or did
* when the news declares something you disagree with
* when an attorney cross examines a witness in court
* when advertisements make some wonderful claim
* when Pilate remarked “What is ‘truth’”
* when a social media site tells you what you’ve posted is “false narrative”
* when someone comments on Facebook and slams another person, claiming their post is false

**2. Transition**

God’s Truth is absolute.

* We grow in Christlikeness as we walk in truth and love

A video introduction to the lesson is available. Watch it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_1ra4x8hx> . If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/yc7n42kh>

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Walk in Truth

Listen for repetitions of the word “truth”.

2 John 1:1-4 (NIV) The elder, To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth--and not I only, but also all who know the truth-- 2 because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever: 3 Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love. 4 It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us.

Consider what we know of the writer of the letter and the recipients.

* The writer identifies himself as “the elder”
* Common opinion is that this is John, the disciple
* Addressed to “the chosen lady”
* Many Bible scholars believe this refers to a particular church congregation

According to the verses, why would the recipients of the letter be people easy to love?

* they know the truth
* they believe the truth
* the Truth lives in them
* God’s Truth was affecting their lives and was demonstrated by their actions

How can the word “truth” be understood in these verses?

* the truth of the Gospel message
* the reality that Jesus lived, was crucified, and was raised from the dead
* Jesus died for *our* sins, He died in our place
* as a result we can be forgiven
* He rose from the dead to give us new life

What benefits do believers receive from living in love and truth?

* we are shown mercy – we do not receive the judgement (death) which we deserve
* we are given grace – we receive the blessing of forgiveness and eternal life (eternal union with God), which we don’t deserve
* we receive peace – peace with God (we are no longer His sinful enemies),
* and peace within oneself (no longer carry the guilt of sin)

Over what did the writer rejoice?

* they are “walking in the truth”
* they are obeying the command to do so

How would you describe what it looks like to “walk in truth”?

* receive by faith, the Truth of the Gospel message
* walk in obedience to God
* knowing and practicing the reality that living by God’s commands is what is best for us
* it is more than head knowledge
* that Truth has affected and changed our lives for the better

How can we ensure our lifestyle is consistent with God’s truth?

* immersing yourself in God’s Word
* read it
* think about what it says
* apply it to your life
* obey it’s commands
* live by the principles it communicates

3.2 Walk in Love

Listen for John’s focus on love.

2 John 1:5-6 (NIV) And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. 6 And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

What is the urgent appeal John makes to the church to whom he wrote?

* love one another
* walk (live your life) in obedience to Jesus’ commands
* walk (live your life) in love – in word, in attitude, in actions

What might John have meant by referring to the commandment to love as something from the beginning?

* the 10 commandments speak to love
* the first four speak of love towards God … love Him supremely
* the remaining 6 speak to the issue of loving one another
* Jesus said that the greatest commandment was to love the Lord God with all our being
* and the second was to love your neighbor as yourself

John emphasizes the importance of truth and love. How do these two concepts intersect, and why are they crucial in the Christian faith?

* the truth about God is that “God is Love”
* it is absolutely true that God loves us
* we know He loves us supremely because He sent Jesus to die for us, to die in our place
* Jesus’ perfect life, substitutionary death, and resurrection are absolute truths
* we can depend on what God communicates
* love will not deceive
* in His love He communicates Truth
* the Truth about Jesus demonstrates His love

How would you describe what it *looks like* to walk in love?

* speak and act with kindness
* allow God to rule in your life
* when God is in charge, one will submit to His guidance – which will be to act in love
* putting others ahead of yourself
* we will act in unsolicited acts of kindness
* our motives are not to only do things that benefit self, but actions that benefit others

What are some *practical ways* we can walk in love during a normal day?

* help one another without being asked
* not speak sharply to others
* pray for your enemies, for those who mistreat you
* respond to slights or mistreatments with kindness
* look for ways to be nice
* ask God to demonstrate the Fruit of the Spirit through you … love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control

3.3 Walk in the Teachings of Christ

Listen for a reminder to be alert.

2 John 1:7-9 (NIV) Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. 9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

What did many false teachers of John’s day deny?

* deny the deity of Christ … declare He was not really God
* others muddled the Truth of Jesus being 100% God and 100% human at the same time
* or they say His deity came and went, was present only part of the time
* such beliefs demonstrated that they were enemies of Christ, they were against Him

What does it mean *not to welcome* a person who does not share in the teaching of Christ?

* not to tolerate what they are claiming or teaching
* don’t pay attention to their false claims
* don’t give them opportunity to promote false teaching
* don’t tolerate claims or teaching that you know to be false

How would welcoming someone without correct teaching about Christ be sharing in his or her wickedness?

* welcoming such a person is equivalent to giving credibility to their teachings
* false teachings are evil
* they send us away from Truth, from the reality of who God is and what He says
* it is one of the ways Satan uses to confuse and defeat believers

How can we avoid false teachers without being cold or inhospitable?

* they may come and hear the preaching of the truth
* we can act in kindness and love, but do not give them the opportunity to declare false concepts
* when they make false statements, we must kindly correct them according to God’s Word
* this means we must know God’s Truth ourselves and be teaching it
* to be able to identify counterfeit, you have to know what the real thing looks like

What evidence in one’s life will indicate that he or she is striving to walk in truth?

* regularly (daily) reading and considering God’s Word
* daily communication with God – “listen” to what God says in His word, speaking to God in prayer
* applying God’s Word – obey what it says
* demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit in daily living

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Read.

* Read a selection of Scripture each day this week.
* Why not start with the letters of the apostle John: 1, 2, and 3 John?
* These books have a total of seven chapters—just one per day! Then you will grow in truth.

Reinforce.

* Consciously reinforce your love for others by either word or deed each day this week.
* Start with something small like a note or compliment.
* It will make a difference in your life and theirs.
* Then you will deepen your love.

Reconcile.

* Identify someone you’ve had difficulty loving unconditionally.
* Pray for this person daily and ask God for an opportunity to either forgive or seek forgiveness this week.
* Then you will model obedience.

Cryptogram Puzzle



Spiros the Spy has been on assignment in Nango Puandbar and forwarded to us in the diplomatic pouch this message. The underground church smuggled it into the embassy there. Our regular decoders are now busy with junior high football practice. We need your help to use the partial key we have and decode the message. Use the numbers in the message to determine the letter in the partial key. When you complete your mission, forward it to your Discipleship Committee chairman. Help and further Family Activities at <https://tinyurl.com/yc7n42kh>