

# BIG IDEAS FROM LITTLE BOOKS

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### DISCUSSION GOAL



*Discuss what it looks like to be unified and built up by God's truth. And how you can protect the truth.*

### ICE BREAKER



It's BBQ season! What's your favorite cookout food?

### TEXT



*Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.*

## 2 John

<sup>1</sup> The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, <sup>2</sup> because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:

<sup>3</sup> Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.

<sup>4</sup> I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. <sup>5</sup> And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. <sup>6</sup> And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. <sup>7</sup> For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. <sup>8</sup> Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. <sup>9</sup> Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. <sup>10</sup> If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, <sup>11</sup> for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

<sup>12</sup> Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>13</sup> The children of your elect sister greet you.

### MESSAGE OUTLINE



*This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.*

Big Idea: The Church flourishes in God's truth.

Key Question: How can we build ourselves up in God's truth?

1. Practice love and obedience. (vv. 1-6)
2. Discern truth from falsehood. (vv. 7-13)

## DISCUSSION



- In the opening of 2 John, the author repeats the word “truth” several times. What does “truth” mean? Read John 14:6. How does this passage illuminate your view or idea of truth? How does this truth bind us together as the church (vv. 1-3)?
- In 2 John verse 5, the author reminds his reader of the command they have to “love one another.” As believers in the truth, this command also applies to us. Practically speaking, what do you think it looks like to love one another? How can we encourage one another to continually obey this command?
- In the second half of 2 John, we read a warning against “deceivers” who teach things other than the “truth.” How can we discern the truth from a lie? What are some ways you’ve seen false teachings slip into our society?
- Reread 2 John 8-9. Verse 9 talks about abiding in the teaching of Christ (or truth). How does abiding in the truth protect us from being swayed by false teachings? What does it look like to protect the truth from being skewed?
- The author of this letter expresses a longing to be with his readers in person, so that “their joy may be complete (v.12). How does gathering together as a group bring us joy? When we gather, how can we build each other up in God’s truth?

## LIFE APPLICATION



The church flourishes in God’s truth! You can know that someone walks in God’s truth if they are living out the command to love one another. What next step can you take this week towards living out the command to love one another and how can you as a group build up one another in God’s truth?

*jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.*

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## PRAYER REQUESTS



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