



## Pray

How does 2 John inspire you to pray?  
Is there action you need to take?

How can this passage impact the way you pray  
for yourself and others?

How does this passage move you to thank and praise God?



## A Celebration of Faithfulness | 2 John

Study Guide 16 for sermon on 04/18/2021



## Introduction

Every Christian parent prays for their children to walk faithfully with Christ when they become adults. This is the occasion for the letter of 2 John. In here, we see find John's celebration over their faithfulness, even while he warns against false teachers who can lead the undiscerning astray. In this regard, it is important that we walk in genuine love (v.5-6) and with careful discernment (v.7-11), knowing that both are equally important to Christian faithfulness.



## Overview

**Context:** 2 John is a letter to a faithful woman (or possibly a metaphor for the church in general), celebrating that her children are remaining faithful to Christ.

**Structure:**

- I. Greeting (v.1-3)
- II. A Celebration of Faithfulness (v.4-6)
- III. A Warning Against False Teachers (v.7-11)
- IV. Farewell (v.12-13)



## Engage

1. What does John's greeting (verse 1) tell you about John, about the recipient of the letter, and about their relationship?
2. There's a significant emphasis in this letter on "the truth" – 5 times in the first 4 verses! What is this truth that John keeps referring to?
3. John bursts into praise in verse 3. How does this one verse capture both the source and the promise of our salvation?
4. What commands in Scripture might John be referring to (verse 4), when he celebrates the faithfulness of the lady's children? What does the Bible say about the importance of passing the faith from generation to generation?
5. How is verse 6's definition of love different from what we would expect? How does this definition and 1 Cor. 13 relate to one another?
6. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think about someone who's a "deceiver?"
7. John says the primary mark of a deceiver is their false teaching about the Person of Christ. Whereas they denied Jesus' humanity, many today deny his divinity. Why is this so important to "get right?"
8. Verses 9-11 can sound harsh to our modern ears. How can this actually be an expression of love for our children (both biological and metaphorical "children")?
9. Especially given this past year's quarantine, what can we learn from John's preference for face-to-face fellowship and ministry together (verse 12)?
10. Overall, there is a significant emphasis in 2 John about walking fully in love and walking fully in the truth. Too often, we walk in one or the other or with lopsided attention to one over the other. Which of these is easiest for you to drift towards? How can you keep your eyes on Jesus this week so you walk fully in both?