

# **Walking in the Light**

**Studies in John's Epistles**

**2010 Northeast F.C. Camp**

# Lesson 1 – Introduction, Fellowship with God

## Introduction to the book

### A. Write down the purposes that John had in writing according to the following verses in 1 John

1. 1:4 that... \_\_\_\_\_
2. 2:1 that... \_\_\_\_\_
3. 5:13a that... \_\_\_\_\_
4. 5:13b that... \_\_\_\_\_

### B. The problem of Gnosticism

1. The term comes from the word “gnosis” which means = to know
2. This false philosophy was beginning to affect churches by the end of the first century when John was writing.
3. There were many “brands” of Gnosticism. The following were characteristics of most.
  - a. They emphasized knowledge more than love (Also notice Paul’s teaching in 1 Cor. 8:1,2; 13)
  - b. Knowing was an excuse for experimenting with sin (Rev. 2:24).
    - i. Sin wasn’t a big deal to Gnostics if one really “knew the secrets about God.”
  - c. Obtaining knowledge was all that mattered and that search for knowledge substituted for obeying God and practicing holiness.

*\* Thought question* - Do we see attitudes similar to those of the Gnostics today?  
Where and how?
4. They viewed all matter as evil – This led to several errors
  - a. It would be impossible for God to be in an “evil” material body
    - i. Therefore, if Jesus were God (divine), it would be impossible for him to be in a body.
    - ii. Therefore, he either wasn’t divine (God), or he really didn’t exist in a fleshly body.
  - b. Morality
    - i. Some Gnostics thought that since the body (in their opinion) was by nature evil, that you had to punish it. (See Col. 2:23)
    - ii. More thought that since it was evil, there was nothing you could do about it, so just let the body do what it wants to do.

## Part 1 - Fellowship with God

### I. Fellowship with God through knowing Christ

#### A. Analyzing the text - Read chapter 1 verses 1-4

1. What four ways does John describe the way he and the other apostles had experienced Jesus Christ (that which was from the beginning)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*\* Thought question* – Why do you think he’s emphasizing the human senses so much?

2. According to verse 2 what two things did John and the other apostles do with what had been manifested to them and seen by them? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What two senses does John refer to again in verse 3? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did John want them to have with him and the other apostles on the basis of their testimony? \_\_\_\_\_

*\* The word “fellowship” has to do with sharing.*
5. According to verse 3, When we have fellowship (sharing) with the apostles, who does that really mean we have fellowship with? \_\_\_\_\_
6. According to verse 4, what does John want us to receive through his writings? \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Thought questions

1. Do verses 1-4 make the life of Jesus sound like fairy tales, of something that really happened?
2. How can John’s sincere testimony in verses 1-4 help us when we tend to doubt that Jesus really was on earth and did the miracles that he did?
3. In what ways do we share (have fellowship) with John and other apostles when they and other inspired writers give their testimony about Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John?
4. How does sharing with them (the apostles) help us to learn to have communion (fellowship) with God the Father and with Christ?
5. How full is your joy in life on a scale of 1-10? \_\_\_\_\_ How can sharing more with John and other inspired writers help you to go up in your “joy fullness” scale? How can you share with them more?

## II. Fellowship through walking in the light

### A. Analyzing the text (Read chapter 1 verses 5-7)

1. Where did John hear the message that he was passing on? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How does John describe God in verse 5? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What do we do if we say we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What two good benefits come from walking in the light? \_\_\_\_\_



### B. Thought questions:

1. Think of the terms “walk in darkness” and “walk in light.” How would you define and illustrate both concepts? More about this in lesson 3!
2. Why do you think verse 6 could refute Gnosticism?
3. Can you think of some celebrities who claim to “know Christ” and yet still live a worldly lifestyle, wearing provocative clothing and acting like worldly people?
4. Why is it easy to claim to be a Christian without making the changes necessary to be holy?
5. Are you tempted to want the outward blessings of Christianity (friendship with good people, a sense of peace, etc.) without making the necessary commitments to be holy (avoiding worldly dress, worldly movies, worldly entertainment, etc.) Why is this ultimately unfruitful?
6. How many sins does the blood of Christ cleanse for those who are walking in the light?

## III. Fellowship through confession

### A. Analyzing the text (read chapter 1 verses 8 -10)

1. What is true if we say that we have no sin? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is God faithful and just to do if we confess our sins?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What do we make God appear to be if we say we have not sinned? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What isn't in us if such is the case? \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Thought questions

1. How much unrighteousness will God cleanse if we confess?
2. Have you every met anyone who felt that they had sinned so much that God couldn't forgive them? How could this verse help them?
3. What about the sin against the Holy Spirit? (Matt. 12:31)  
\* Could we conclude that the sin against the Holy Spirit would involve people who would never confess? (I believe that the sin against the Holy Spirit involves seeing Christ's miracles through the Spirit and attributing them to Satan.)
4. Why is it absolutely essential for us to confess our sin if we are going to have cleansing and fellowship with God?
5. If there are so many blessings that come from confession, why is it so difficult?
6. On a scale of 1-10, how much do you confess your sin?
7. How can we do better as far as confession is concerned?

## IV. Further thoughts on fellowship with God from the rest of the book

### A. More questions

1. What are some further requirements necessary for fellowship with God  
2:3, 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
4:15 \_\_\_\_\_  
4:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Lesson 2 – Love in John’s Epistles

Intro. We have discussed fellowship with God in lesson 1. This lesson will analyze love in the epistles.

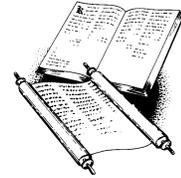
## I. God’s love for us

A. Analyzing text - Read chapter 3 verses 1-3

1. How is the greatness of God’s love seen according to verse 1?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why does the world not know us? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the main thing we know about regarding what we will be like when Christ comes?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does this hope do for us? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Thought questions

1. What would be some benefits that would come from being a child of the president? Of a multimillionaire?
2. Why do the blessings of being a child of God surpass all of the above blessings?
3. How interested are you in getting attention from people in your school or the world and being known and popular with them? (One to ten scale)
4. What are some things that people do to gain notoriety and popularity in their schools that they shouldn’t do? Which of these things are you tempted to do?
5. According to the last part of verse 1, why would such concern for friendship with worldly people be incompatible with knowing God?
6. How much do you anticipate seeing God as He is?
7. Why is hoping to see God essential for purifying ourselves?



C. Analyzing texts (4:9-11)

1. How was God’s love manifested? \_\_\_\_\_  
\* What famous verse does this remind you of?
2. What is love not? \_\_\_\_\_ But what is it? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Christ come for our sins? \_\_\_\_\_ (We’ll analyze the words below.)
4. Since God loves us, what should we do for each other? \_\_\_\_\_

D. Thought questions

1. Why is God’s sending His only begotten Son into the world such a great sign of his love?  
Though it is impossible to think of any love that would approach this, think of other types of great love. Why would none of the examples we can think of be as great as God’s love?
2. In what ways do we live through Christ? (This is deep stuff, but do the best you can!)
3. The word “propitiation” in the Old Testament carries the idea of a covering. How does Christ’s sacrifice cover us from punishment? (Again, this is deep stuff, but do the best you can!)

## II. Our love for God

A. Analyzing text - Read 2:3-6

1. How do we know that we know him? (Notice the importance given to the word “know” “*gnosis*.”)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What about the person that says he knows God without keeping His commandments? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is perfected in the ones who keep God’s word? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How do we know we are in Him? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How should we walk if we abide in Him? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Thought questions from 2:3-6

1. Why would these verses be effective in combating Gnosticism?
2. Why is it easier to claim to know and love God than to keep His commandments?
3. Here is a statement from an evangelical writer named Patrick Morely, “It is not imitation that leads to everlasting life; it is surrender.” “It is accepting that we cannot imitate him.”
  - a. What in these verses contradicts Patrick Morely?
  - b. Do you think that writers like Morely who say it is impossible to imitate Christ may be like Gnostics who believed that our bodies were evil by nature and had to sin?  
\* Perhaps Morely means we won’t live perfectly without sin as Jesus did. However, that does not mean that we shouldn’t imitate him.

C. Analyzing text – Read 5:1-3

1. What is necessary to love the one who is begotten of God? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How do we know we love the children of God? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What do we do when we love God? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What are God’s commands NOT? \_\_\_\_\_

D. Thought questions from 5:1-3

1. Some people might apply 5:1a as teaching “faith only” and that obedience to commands such as baptism for remission of sins is not necessary. What in this context and 1 John contradicts this misinterpretation?
2. It is so popular to talk today about the importance of loving God. However, it is not popular to talk about the importance of obeying commandments. Why is this not consistent?

**III. Our love for brethren**

A. Analyzing texts (3:14-19)

1. How do we know we have passed from death to life? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where does the brother abide who does not love? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does John call the brother who does not love? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How do we know love? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What should we therefore be willing to do? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What example does John give that indicates that the love of God is lacking in someone? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Thought questions on 3:14-19:

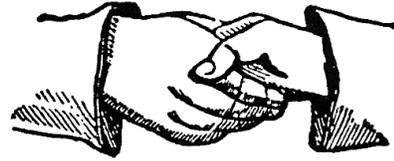
1. Is it possible to be baptized without repenting and determining to learn love? Why are unloving brethren such a problem in the church? When have you been tempted to look out for your own interests instead of being loving?
2. What statement of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount reminds you of verse 15?
3. If we should be willing to lay down our lives for our brethren, what else should we be willing to give up for them? Make a list!
4. When have you given something to a brother (an elderly brother or sister for example) that you thought might have need? If you haven't, why not?

C. Analyzing texts – Read 4:7, 8

1. What is the origin of love? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who is born of God and truly knows him? \_\_\_\_\_ Notice again the reference to “knowing”( *gnosis*).
3. What is God?

D. Thought questions

1. Why does a culture that rejects God have trouble being a loving culture?
2. Why does a person who rejects God have trouble loving?



E. Analyzing texts - Read 5:16, 17

1. What should we do for one sinning not unto death?
2. Should we ask forgiveness for a one sinning unto death?

F. Thought questions on 5:16, 17

1. If God forgives all sins that are confessed (1:9), would this mean that the sin “not unto death” would be one committed by an honest person willing to grow and confess when coming to a better understanding of God’s will? Would the sin unto death be the one committed by a rebellious person who has no desire to grow and confess?
2. How much do you ask others to pray for your challenges with sin? Often? Occasionally? Seldom? Never?
3. How much do you pray for your friends’ challenges with sin? How can we do better?

## Lesson 3 – Darkness and Light

Intro. John likes to make a stark distinction between good and evil. One of the figures he uses is “light and darkness.” He uses this figure in the book of John and in his letters.



### I. Analyzing texts in the epistles

A. Read 1:5-7 (We've read it once before in lesson 1)

1. How does John describe God in verse 5? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does Jesus call himself in John 8:12? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What word does John use to describe the action of living in darkness or living in light? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What are two blessings that come from walking in the light?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What other expression does John use in 2 John 4 and 3 John 3 that is parallel to walking in the light? Walking in \_\_\_\_\_

6. What other expression does John use in 2 John 6 that is parallel to walking in the light?  
Walking in \_\_\_\_\_

B. Thought questions

1. Have any of you ever been in a cave or cavern system when they turned out the lights and left you in total darkness? Explain how it felt. Have any of you experienced total darkness in other ways? How does it feel?
2. What will happen to you at camp in the middle of the night if you try to get up and walk around without any light at all?
3. Have you ever driven in the country late at night and then turned off the headlights? What would happen if you tried to drive without lights at night in the country for more than a few seconds?
4. Why is the concept of walking in darkness so accurate to describe people who try to live without God?
5. Why is the concept of walking in the light so accurate to describe those who obey God?

C. Analyzing texts (2:7-11)

1. In one sense, was what John was writing old? \_\_\_\_\_ In one sense was it new? \_\_\_\_\_  
\* Love was something God always commanded. However, to love as God has loved in sending Christ to the world provides us with a new, greater concept of love. In that way it was new.
2. What was happening to the darkness \_\_\_\_\_  
\* As Christ's message extends throughout the world, the darkness fades.
3. Where does the one who loves his brother abide? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is there no cause for in him? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where does the one who hates his brother walk? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What does he not know to do? \_\_\_\_\_

D. Thought questions on 2:7- 11

1. How much does the light you reflect from Jesus in your life, get rid of the darkness around you? A little nightlight? a 40 watt light bulb? a 2,000,000 spotlight? What can you do to shine brighter?
2. Why do unloving people stumble (get in trouble) in their lives? Why don't they know where to go with their lives?
3. Who are some friends you know who are living in complete darkness. Talk about them if you want, but be careful with names. What can you do to shine some light in their lives?

### II. What light does - This is what Christ and His words do!

**A. Reveals problems and gives their solutions** – Darkness hides problems and solutions

1. Illustration – If there is a problem with a car at night, what do you have to get to check on the problem? A light! If there is no light, can you see the problem?

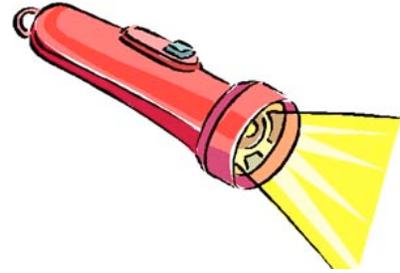
\* **Thought question** – What are some other types of things where light is needed to find the cause of problems?

2. Text Psalm 119:130

- a. What does the entrance of God's word do? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Who does it give understanding to? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Thought questions

- \* What is man's greatest problem?
- \* Why can't man realize that this is his problem without the light of Christ's words?
- \* What do you feel are your greatest problems now?  
Do you think what you consider to be your biggest problem is what God considers to be your biggest?
- \* How can Jesus shine his light on your life to show you what your problem is?



4. Illustration – A light not only shows the problem, but also the solution. For example, if a car isn't running, the light might show that the problem is a detached cable and the solution is to reattach it.

5. According to John 3:16 - What is the solution to man's biggest problem?

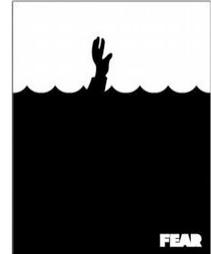
**B. Light gets rid of fear** – darkness brings on fear

\* Thought question: Do you like to sleep in complete darkness, or do you prefer to have a night light? Have you ever been afraid of the dark? Tell about it if you like!

1. Ps. 27:1 Who would David fear when he had the light of the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Thought questions

- a. Thought question – Have you ever been afraid of something, perhaps as a child, only to see that it was nothing when the light was turned on?
- b. What are some things you fear regarding the future?
- c. How can the "light" of Christ and his word help you with those fears?
- d. Why do those who do not have the light have difficulty facing their fears? What do some of your friends fear for the future?  
How can you help them see the light?



**C. Light gives joy** –

1. Illustration – Darkness produces depression. Seasonal Affective Disorder is a mood disorder that many people suffer in the winter, probably because of lack of sunlight. Often light therapy is used to treat the depression. The same is true spiritually. The less spiritual light that people allow into their lives the more they are inclined to suffer depression.

2. Text - Read Phil 4:4-6

- a. Who can we always rejoice in? \_\_\_\_\_ Who is the light of the world? (Jn. 8:32) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Thought questions

- a. Do you have friends who suffer depression?
- b. How can spiritual "light therapy" help them?
- c. When do you tend to feel depressed more: When you are walking in the brightest light possible? Or, when you tend to wander away from the light?

**D. Light shows danger**, Darkness let's us fall into traps

1. Thought question: What are some different kinds of lights that warn of danger?

2. Read Psalm 19:11

1. What do the judgments of the Lord do? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Thought questions

- a. How would the world be without warning lights? (traffic lights, yellow caution lights, light houses, etc.)
- b. What are some dangerous things we are warned about by the light of God's word?

**E. Light shows the way**, Darkness confuses

1. Read Ps. 119:105 What does the Psalmist call the word? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Thought questions

- a. Can you see the way that God's light is showing you to follow in your life?
- b. If you determine to put God first in every decision that you make, will this keep you on the Way?

## Lesson 4; Dealing with sin, error and false teachers

Intro. The inspired apostle, John, was very concerned about Gnosticism and its implication that knowledge was more important than holiness, and that holiness was practically impossible. Much in his epistles deals with the problem of sin and false teachers.



### I. The Problem of sin in 1 John

#### A. Read 2:15-17 and analyze

1. What attitude should we avoid towards the world and the things in it?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What three categories does John describe as things of the world in verse 16?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What will happen to all these things of the world? \_\_\_\_\_

4. But, what will happen to the word of God? \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Thought questions for 2:15-17

1. Which things of "the world" are the most difficult for you not to love? Electronic gadgets? Money? Stylish clothes? Questionable movies? Video games?
2. Can you have some of the above without "loving" them in an unhealthy way?
3. What's the difference between having gadgets, stylish clothes, money, etc. without "loving" them? Why is it sometimes tough to distinguish between "having" them and "loving" them in an unhealthy way?
4. What were the three temptations of Jesus in Matthew 4? Which temptation belongs to which category mentioned in verse 16?

#### C. Read 3:4-9 and analyze

1. What is sin according to verse 4? \_\_\_\_\_ (check different translations)
2. Why was Jesus manifested according to vs. 5? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does one who abides in him not do? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What has one not done who sins? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who is the one who sins of? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What does one who is born of God not do and cannot do? \_\_\_\_\_

#### D. Thought questions

1. The New International Version translates the verb "sin" in verses 4 and 9 as "keeps on sinning." The idea is that the Christian does not keep on sinning, not that he never stumbles in sin. Do you think this translation helps harmonize 2:4 and 9 with chapter 1 verses 8 and 10?
2. Who is righteous according to verse 7?  
\* There is a modern theory (akin to Gnosticism) that says that that our actions have nothing to do with being proclaimed righteous. .Of course we can't without Christ, but with Christ can we be righteous in our actions according to this verse?

### II. The solution to sin in 1 John

#### A. Read chapter 2 verses 1 and 2

1. Why did John write to them? \_\_\_\_\_
2. But if we sin, what has God given us to help us? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What has he come for our sins? \_\_\_\_\_  
\* Remember what this word means!

#### B. Thought questions

1. How can John's writings and those of other apostles help us avoid sin?
2. What are some other translations for "Advocate" (NKJV)? What do these words suggest about what Christ does for us when we sin?
3. For whose sins has Christ become the propitiation?  
\* Some say that Christ died only for some people. How does this verse contradict that idea?
4. Though Christ died to be the propitiation for the sins of the whole world, the whole world will not be saved. Why?

### OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO RESPOND TO CHRIST'S DEATH

C. Read the texts and write what we must do to accept and keep Christ's salvation (can't list all)

1. 1 John 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 1 John 2:3 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 1 John 2:6 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 1 John 2:24 \_\_\_\_\_
5. 3:23 \_\_\_\_\_
6. 3:24 \_\_\_\_\_
7. 4:15 \_\_\_\_\_
8. 5:2,3 \_\_\_\_\_

D. Thought questions

1. Chapter 3 verse 24 talks about the importance of abiding in what we've heard from the **beginning**. Why is this sometimes difficult? How does this harmonize with the idea of restoration.
2. Can we today abide in what early Christians taught from the beginning? What tempts you most to leave what early Christians taught and practiced? Entertainment oriented worship? Modern philosophies like feminism? The desire to trust more in feelings than in the word?

### III. The need to deal decisively with false teachers in 1 John and 2 John.

A. Read chapter 2 verses 18-23

1. How many antichrists had come? \_\_\_\_\_  
\* The term "last hour" is a little difficult. It is translated "last time" in the NET. Perhaps the best explanation is that Jesus and other writers often referred to the whole period between his death and 2<sup>nd</sup> coming as "the last days" or the last period of time (See texts like Acts 2:17 and Heb. 2:1,2. John 5:24-28; 6:39, 40 and 11:24). John is stating here that the fact that they were in the last period of time (as are we) is confirmed by the presence of so many antichrists.
2. Where had the false teachers gone out from according to verse 19? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What would protect them from the false teachers? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did the liars and antichrists deny? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Thought questions

1. Does John talk about one antichrist or many?
2. John said that the false teachers had come out from among them. Is the same thing true today? Does this mean that we may sometimes have to confront old friends when they go astray?

C. Read 4:1 and analyze

1. What should we not do with every spirit? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Instead, what should we do with every spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

D. Thought questions from 4:1

1. Do you tend to believe everything you hear on TV? On the Internet? At school? Do you know anyone who does. Tell about them without giving names.
2. What is the best way to "try [or test] the spirits" (ideas we hear)?
3. How many false prophets are out in the world? How can you avoid being deceived by them?

E. Read 4:2-6

1. Regarding the problem of Gnosticism, what would those with the spirit of God confess? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why should faithful Christians have confidence of overcoming false teachers? \_\_\_\_\_
3. According to verse 6, what is the difference between those who know God and those who don't? \_\_\_\_\_

F. We'll read 2<sup>nd</sup> John verses 9-11 in the next lesson



### Concluding Questions

1. On a scale of 1-10, how much do you hate sin? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why should you hate it?
3. What are some steps that can help you hate it more?

## Lesson 5 – 2nd and 3rd John

Intro. Who are some visiting preachers that come to your congregation?

- A. Second and Third John deal with visiting preachers and teachers from two perspectives
  - 1. 2nd John deals with the problem of accepting preachers that do not bring Christ's teaching.
  - 2. 3<sup>rd</sup> John deals with the problem of rejecting good preachers.
- B. These are the shortest books in the Bible – They were letters that would fit on one page!

### I. Second John

A. Read verses 1-3

- 1. To whom is the letter written? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Does this refer to a person or to a church? My own belief is that it refers to a person who has children. Nowhere else in the Bible is a church referred to as having children.
- 2. How did John love her and her children? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. What abides in us? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Thought questions on verses 1-3

- 1. Besides the truth, what are some other things that are said to dwell in Christians?
- 2. Does the idea of truth dwelling in us have to do with a physical indwelling or with a dominating influence that controls our lives. Could that often be true of the concept of other things or beings dwelling in us as well?
- 3. Where in these three verses do you see the double themes of truth and love?
- 4. Which is it easier for you to do: Walk in truth? Or, Walk in love?
- 5. Why is both walking in truth and walking in love essential to follow Christ?

C. Read verses 4-6

- 1. What gave John great joy? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. What old command did John write to the chosen lady? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. What is love? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. What does God command that we walk in? \_\_\_\_\_

D. Thought questions on verses 4-6

- 1. In what ways do some people **not** walk in truth? What are some ways you can be deceived about who you are, who God is and what life is all about?
- 2. Why is it easy to be deceived into thinking that someone who smiles and hugs a lot is loving, when they aren't obeying God's word and acting in the best interests of others.

E. Read verses 7-11

- 1. What did the deceivers say? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. What did John call the deceivers? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. What did John want them to be careful not to lose? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. What does John say about the one who goes onward ("runs ahead" NIV; "too far" NASV) and doesn't abide in the teachings (doctrine) of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. What about one who does abide in the teaching of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. What should we **not** do for one who does not bring the teaching of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Why shouldn't we do it? \_\_\_\_\_



F. Thought questions on verses 7-11

- 1. Have you ever lost several hours of work on your computer? How would that compare with losing your reward in heaven?
- 2. Some say that it is impossible to lose your reward. How does this verse contradict that teaching?
- 3. Though the text is referring in particular to those who presumptuously go beyond the doctrine of Christ regarding his coming in the flesh (Gnosticism, "docetism"), can it also refer to those who presumptuously go beyond the doctrine of Christ in other areas?
- 4. Draw a circle with everything inside the circle representing the doctrine of Christ. Why is it important to remain within that circle? Where do things such as holy water, incense for worship, entertainment oriented worship, etc. go? Within the doctrine of Christ or outside of it?
- 6. 2 Tim. 2:24-26, Col. 3:12, 13 talk about the importance of patience with those who need correction. John talks about stronger medicine in 2 John 9-11. Why the difference?
- 7. What are some differences between someone who is mistaken and needs patience, and a false teacher who needs strong rebuke?
- 8. When are you most tempted to welcome those who are in rebellion?

H. Read verses 12, 13 Why didn't John write a longer letter? \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Third John

### A. Read verses 1-4

1. To whom was this letter written? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How does John describe him? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How does John describe how he wants Gaius' health to be? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Gaius walk in? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What gave John great joy? \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Thought questions on verses 1-4

1. Can our body be in good condition while our soul is in bad condition and vice versa? Does this show that we are not mere body but also have a soul? If your body were in the same condition as your soul, how would you be physically? Strong and robust? Occasionally sick? Chronically ill? Almost dead?
2. How many times does the word "truth" appear in these four verses?
3. What would you do to give your parent's their greatest joy? Good grades? A home run for your baseball team? That you become a doctor or lawyer? That you be a humble Christian?
4. When you become a parent, which of the above will you want most for your children?

### C. Read verses 5-8

1. Who had Gaius been helping? \_\_\_\_\_ (preachers who traveled)
2. Who had they told about his love? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why had these preachers gone out? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What should we do for such people? \_\_\_\_\_

### D. Thought questions

1. What are some things you can do to help encourage those who teach and preach. Make a list!

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### E. Read verses 9, 10

1. What did Diotrophes want? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did he not want? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What would John do when he came? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What two things did Diotrophes do besides not receiving John?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### F. Thought questions on verses 9, 10

1. Why are arrogant people like Diotrophes so harmful to churches?
2. Why are churches reluctant sometimes to call attention to the evil deeds of people like Diotrophes?

### G. Read verses 11, 12

1. What should Gaius imitate? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was well spoken of by everyone? \_\_\_\_\_

### H. Thought questions on verses 11,12

1. The point of verse 11 seems obvious, but Gnosticism gave more emphasis to "knowing" than to "doing." Are you sometimes satisfied that you know certain truths and yet allow yourself to do some things that aren't compatible with that knowledge? What tempts you most?
2. How can the truth speak well of you?

### I. Read verses 13-15

1. Why did John not write more? \_\_\_\_\_

## Conclusion

### A. What are some key words and phrases in these three little books?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### B. How important are the principles involved in these words and phrases in your life?

### C. How would you describe your walk in the light now? Be honest! Check one

- \_\_\_ 1. I am in total darkness as far as my life is concerned.
- \_\_\_ 2. I'm stumbling along and can hardly see the path.
- \_\_\_ 3. I think I'm starting to see the light more clearly.
- \_\_\_ 4. I'm happy to be in the light and want to help others to be in it.

### D. Have a final prayer asking God's help in seeking and walking in His light