

Study of 2 John

Print out a copy of 2 John in letter format. If you enjoy creative journaling, use a font that looks like handwriting. Get stickers, highlighters, and colored pencils to make notes and highlight key verses as you go. At the end of the study, you will have a beautiful, well studied work of art.

Week 1 Overview and Background

Monday: Look up quotes about handwritten letters. Choose one that you like and write it on the margin of your 2 John letter. Why is this quote meaningful? Remember a time you received a great message. Was it through text, email, or letter? Copy the message on the margin or back of this letter along with the date and author.

Tuesday: Read 2 John entirely. Write down first impressions and main ideas around the letter borders. What words are repeated in this letter?

Wednesday: Read 2 John again imagining yourself as the “chosen lady” or recipient. Which sentence do you most identify with and why? Highlight the sentence, draw a picture next to it, or place a sticker to mark it.

Thursday: Research the background of 2 John. Who wrote it? Who was the letter written to? Why was the letter written? Find out all you can about the history of the letter using a Bible dictionary, online Bible resources, and your study Bible.

Week 2 Truth and Love

Monday: Look up all references to the apostle John in the gospels and book of Acts. What do you notice about John? What is he like?

Tuesday: Read the first three paragraphs of 2 John (verses 1-6). Circle all the times you read the word “truth.” What do you learn about “truth” from these verses? Look up the definition of “truth.” Does the definition add to your understanding of these verses or not? What “truth” is John referring to? Using a highlighter, soft colored pencil, or velum, write “truth” over these paragraphs.

Wednesday: Now underline all the references to “love” in this same section. What is “love” according to John? Using a highlighter, soft colored pencil, or velum, write “love” over these paragraphs.

Thursday: Look over your notes from the week. Consider what this letter says about truth and love. Has your understanding of either changed? How can the truth described in this letter be applied to your life? How can the love described in this letter be applied to your life?

Week 3 Warning

Monday: John spends the second part of the letter warning of deceivers. What does John state the deceivers do in paragraph four (verses 7-11)? Highlight or underline the warnings in red.

Tuesday: Look up this paragraph in other Bible translations. On the back of the letter, write down any questions you have about the deceivers, what they do, and how they adversely affect your faith.

Wednesday: Research the deceivers referred to in this letter. Who are they? What were they teaching the believers that was contrary to the gospel?

Thursday: You may not have false teachers physically entering your home or teaching in your church, but have you welcomed them into your life in other ways? Commit this weekend to a media fast. Do not watch TV (even Christian programming), listen to music (even worship), or read anything other than the Bible. Enjoy more books written by John like the gospel of John, 1 and 3 John, and Revelation. Enjoy quiet time outside praying or just listening.

Week 4 Joy

Monday: Note the results of your weekend media fast. Is God showing you false teachings that need to be removed from your life? How did the time go?

Tuesday: Another repeated word in this letter is “joy.” Reread the entire letter and draw a square around the two references to “joy.” What brings John joy? Do you find joy in these things as well?

Wednesday: Look back at your highlights and notes. Choose one verse to memorize. Finish any drawings or artistic details you want to add to the letter.

Thursday: Meditate on your memory verse. Note the main things you want to apply or change in your life since reading this letter. Spend time in prayer, talking all this over with God.