

THE LETTERS OF

1, 2, & 3 JOHN

Contrasting What's True and Not True About Jesus

PART 1: CONTRAST

To help pass the baton of faith from one generation of Jesus followers to the next, John lays out some characteristics of those who truly follow Jesus—and those who only claim to.

WIN

To better understand the context of the letters of 1, 2, and 3 John and to be reminded of some of the characteristics of true Jesus followers.

CONNECT

John, one of the original twelve disciples, wrote the letters of 1, 2, and 3 John at a time when almost all eyewitnesses of Jesus's life on earth had died. People with no firsthand experience with Jesus were spreading false information, and John wanted to clarify who Jesus was while he still had time.

1. What's a life lesson that has been passed down to you from someone older? Did something they taught or modeled keep you from going down a wrong path?
2. How much of 1, 2, and 3 John have you read? Will this be your first time reading these letters? How do you feel about beginning this study?

LEARN

Before watching the video together and discussing the questions provided, we suggest that you take a few moments to pray. Here's a simple prayer you can use:

Heavenly Father, thank you for inspiring John to write these letters in order to pass along his faith to the next generation. Help prepare us to pass along our faith to the next generation as well. Amen.

After praying, watch the video for Part 1.

APPLY

Discuss the following questions as a group:

1. Think about an organization that has gone through a transition due to a complete turnover of leadership and people. Or perhaps you've lost a patriarch or matriarch of your family. What changes happened as a result of the main person (or people) no longer being there?



THE LETTERS OF

1, 2, & 3 JOHN

Contrasting What's True and Not True About Jesus

2. Have you ever been inspired to do something (or preserve something) as a result of losing someone you cared about? Almost all of John's closest friends died untimely deaths due to their association with Jesus. What kind of impact would that have on his motivation for wanting to pass on what's true about Jesus?
3. Did the video change or inform the way you view John's three short letters? If so, how?
4. Read **1 John 1:5–10**. In your own words, what do you think John's main message was in these verses?
5. When he talks about darkness versus light, what do you think he means? Why do you think he used those terms? What does it look like to walk in the light? How do you know if you're doing that?
6. What are some ways that help you walk in the light instead of darkness? When are you most vulnerable to slipping toward darkness?

PRAY

We suggest ending your group with prayer.

BEFORE NEXT TIME

Read through the letters of 1, 2, and 3 John before your next session. In addition, try to memorize this passage:

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

1 John 1:6–7

