

THE LETTERS OF

1, 2, & 3 JOHN

Contrasting What's True and Not True About Jesus

PART 2: LOVE

Being a follower of Jesus comes with sacrificial actions. And behind those actions is always love.

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. When was the last time you wrote a letter or personalized note? Why did you write it?
2. Did you get a chance to read through 1, 2, and 3 John? What stood out to you?
3. Were you able to memorize **1 John 1:6–7**?

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, help us follow the example of Jesus by loving others well. Amen.

After praying, watch the video for Part 2.

APPLY

Discuss the following questions as a group:

1. What are some indicators that someone truly loves you?
2. Read **1 John 3:16–18** aloud. What about the passage describes who you are now, good or bad? Do these verses inspire you, convict you, or perhaps both? Explain.
3. **What does love require of me?** In what current situation do you need to ask yourself that question? What's the answer? Will you do it?
4. Read **3 John 4** aloud. Talk about how John must have felt when he wrote this in the latter years of his life, particularly since he probably had no children of his own. How would you want to finish that sentence toward the end of your own life?

I have no greater joy than to hear _____.



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5. Look over the characteristics of “Living in Truth” that were presented in the video? What stands out as something you need God’s help with?

LIVING IN TRUTH

- Following Jesus alongside other believers
- Openly admitting sinfulness
- Making a genuine effort to follow Jesus
- Demonstrating love by acting on it
- Knowing Jesus was a real person
- Are consistently a benefit to others

PRAY

We suggest ending your group with prayer.

WRAP UP

Try to memorize this passage:

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:16–18

