



Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C
Sunday School

Lesson 9 April 27, 2025

WATCH OUT FOR
DECEIVERS!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CORE VALUES



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SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalm 133:1**

School/Class: But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Hebrews 13:16**

Superintendent/Teacher: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**

School/Class: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. **Psalm 119:105**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**

School/Class: He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. **Proverbs 22:9**

Superintendent/Teacher: Therefore he says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” **Ephesians 4:8**

School/Class: As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:12**

School/Class: For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. **Romans 12:4**

Superintendent/Teacher: By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:35**

School/Class: For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **Gal. 5:13**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

ALL:

But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. **2 Peter 3:18**

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- Bible Basis: 2 John
- Bible Truth: Believers who remain faithful in their belief in Christ will have eternal life; and beware of deceivers who will corrupt the community of believers.
- Memory Verse: "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward"(2 John 8), KJV
- Lesson Aim: By the end of the lesson, we will: RESEARCH John's caution to beware of those who do not abide in Christ's teachings; REFLECT on the emotional response to teachings that are contrary to what we have been previously taught; and TESTIFY that walking in Jesus' commandment to love protects the faith community from deceivers and corruption.
- Background Scriptures: 1 John 5:6-12, 18-20; 2 John; Galatians 6:6-10 - Read and incorporate the insights gained from the Background Scriptures into your study of the lesson.

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2 John, KJV

- 1 The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;
- 2 For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.
- 3 Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

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2 John, KJV

4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.

6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

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2 John, KJV

7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

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2 John, KJV

10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

12 Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

13 The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.

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LIGHT ON THE WORD

Many scholars believe the term "chosen lady" refers to a Christian matron named Lady Electa (a Greck name meaning "chosen"). This matron lived somewhere in the Johannine churches located in Asia Minor. It's also possible that this is the title John used to address the church itself, with the children being the church members. One reason for writing this missive was to warn this cherished lady (vv.1-2) against deceitful teachers. She apparently hosted meetings with visiting preachers in her home (v. 10), similar to Nympha in Laodicea(Colossians 4:15). John encouraged her and cautioned against erroneous doctrine. He proposed that she not support anyone who taught less than the full deity and humanity of Christ.

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LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON:

AIM: We will understand how belief and actions in
God's love and eternal life, provides strength and
care for believers.

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INTRODUCTION

Teach the Truth

In 2 John, the issue was with those who did not profess Jesus to be fully human (such as the docetists who thought Jesus' physical form was a phantasm of God). John's second epistle battled this ungodly perspective and the wicked behavior that stemmed from its teaching.

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INTRODUCTION

Teach the Truth

The apostle encouraged true believers to keep the faith. He reiterated God's commandment of love and the necessity of walking in love and truth. He gingerly reminded the congregation of his desire to visit them soon. His message, though not written in a stern, threatening, supervisory voice, was concise and powerful.

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INTRODUCTION

Teach the Truth

This epistle was relevant not only to the Johannine Christians, but also to modern-day Christians. To obscure the truth, practice erroneous doctrine, and partner with deceitful instructors violates the fundamental principles of the Gospel. This principle does not originate with the apostle John; it is traceable to an idea Jesus established (John 3:20-21).

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BIBLE LEARNING

AIM: We will understand that behavior and
belief are interconnected.

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I. WALK IN TRUTH

Love in Truth

2 John 1-3

The truth John referred to is the acknowledgment that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, fully human and fully divine; and recognize that Jesus, who is the one true God, came in the flesh so that we can know God, and through Him attain eternal life (1 John 5:20).

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I. WALK IN TRUTH

Love in Truth

2 John 1-3

1 The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; **2** For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever. **3** Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

John began this letter with the common introductory greeting of an epistle. He addressed himself as the elder. The recipient was the elect lady. This woman could have been the host or leader of a particular Christian church. John declared his love for her and "her children." This love is qualified by being in the truth. It is not clear whether these are her biological children or children in the Lord. He then states that this love is not particular to him but universal to all who know the truth. This love is motivated by the truth that dwells in all who know it. John here gave personal qualities to "the truth," perhaps to refer to Jesus Christ, who described Himself as "the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

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I. WALK IN TRUTH

Love in Truth

2 John 1-3

1 The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; 2 For the truths sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever. 3 Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

John said this "truth" will be with us forever. It is an eternal truth that lives with them. It is more than just objective facts; it is living, breathing truth. John concluded his introductory greeting with the standard well wishes of grace, mercy, and peace. What distinguished him from other New Testament writers is that he included himself in the well wishes. He said this "grace, mercy, and peace will be with us" – the ones who know the truth (v. 3). This grace, mercy, and peace was not just from John and did not rest in his mere human words; it came from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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LIGHT ON THE WORD

The Divinity and Humanity of Christ

Understanding that Christ is both God and human is of great importance to the author. **Believers need to know this truth and remain in it.** Holding on to this understanding of who Christ is allows us to abide in the Son of God and not be taken away from Him by heretical teachings. False prophets are easily identified because one of their major Christological mistakes is the renunciation of Christ's humanity and the insinuation that He is not the Messiah.

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II. WALK IN LOVE

Belief and Actions

2 John 4-6

The love described in this epistle was not the love portrayed in cinema. It is unconditional love that nullifies selfishness and epitomizes genuine concern for others. We cannot mimic God's love without the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit. John understood that love is a powerful motivation. Our capacity to love is often fashioned by our experiences. John penned declarations about God's loving character because he experienced His love firsthand. He called himself "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 21:20). Jesus' love is clearly communicated by all the Gospel writers, yet it is more prominent in John's literature. John was sensitive to those words and actions of Jesus that illustrated how the One who is love loved others.

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II. WALK IN LOVE

Belief and Actions

2 John 4-6

4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

Characteristically as a shepherd, John's heart was highly elated at the consistent Christian life of members of the congregation to whom he wrote. "Walking" here is from the Greek word peripateo (peh-ree-pah-TEH-oh), which literally means to walk around, and is figuratively used to signify the habits of the individual life. The use of the word "truth" aletheia, (ah-LAY-thay-ah) implies its doctrinal and ethical denotations.

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II. WALK IN LOVE

Belief and Actions

2 John 4-6

4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

To walk in the truth involves belief and behavior. Walking in the truth conveys the imagery of a path that one walks on and keeps on course without deviating. The tense of the word indicates a perpetual pattern of healthy spiritual life. The truth that John talks about did not originate with humankind, not even with the apostles themselves, who originally received it. The truth originated in divine revelation, and so is the command (Gk. entole, en-tow-LAY) to obey it. Indeed, in John's epistle, both the truth and the commandments are synonymous (cf. vv.5-6).

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II. WALK IN LOVE

Belief and Actions
2 John 4-6

5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we heard from the beginning, that we love one another.

John proceeded from commendation to exhortation, based on personal request (Gk.erotao, ehroh-TAH-oh, to entreat). The commandment he affirmed and urged on his readers was not new; it was as old as the Gospel (cf. John 13:34-35) or the time of their hearing and receiving of the same. Here, the command to believe is added to the command to love. To believe in the full humanity and divinity of Christ and His redemptive mission, and to demonstrate brotherly love, is proof of the new birth (1 John 4:7, 5:1).

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II. WALK IN LOVE

Belief and Actions
2 John 4-6

6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

John pursued the line of argument of his first letter – that Christian love is more than emotion; it is action (demonstration). Love for God and Christ is expressed in practical obedience (John 14:15, 21, 15:10; 1 John 5:2-3; cf. Romans 8:8). Jesus summarized the whole Law in the greatest commandment: love (Matthew 22:37-40). Here, John urged a continual walk in love: "that you follow love"(RSV).

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II. WALK IN LOVE

Belief and Actions
2 John 4-6

6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

In the second part of this message (vv. 7-11), John drew the attention of the church to the threat from without: false teaching. He shifted focus from the true believers to the false teachers – from the wheat to the tares (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43). John described the heretics, identified their error, and warned to neither be deceived by them nor give any encouragement to them. In this Scripture passage, John commanded watchfulness. He urged the believers to remain loyal not only in love, but also to the teaching of Christ.

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LIGHT ON THE WORD

Sacrifice and Obedience

Christians have an obligation to love. When we focus on the enormous sacrifice Jesus made on the Cross, how can we not love one another?

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III. WALK IN OBEDIENCE

False Teachers
2 John 7-13

False teachers do not walk in obedience to God's truth. Moral irresponsibility, acceptance of sin, and disregard for the spiritual, mental, and emotional welfare of others are common outcomes of fallacious doctrine. John's letter reminds Christians to live ethically, compassionately, and discerningly. To deny the humanity and deity of Jesus Christ is heresy. The apostle warns faithful believers to forfeit all association with false teachers. His message is relevant in our communities today. We should not lend ourselves to opposing philosophies. The company of false teachers allows them to propagate their doctrine and can signify our approval of what they do.

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III. WALK IN OBEDIENCE

False Teachers
2 John 7-13

7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

John affirmed the appearance of false teachers in the world. He described the false teachers as "deceivers" and "an antichrist." The Greek word *planos* (PLAH-nohs), translated as "deceiver," implies an impostor or corrupter, signifying wandering or leading astray. 'This is a repeat of his earlier warning against "deceivers" and "many antichrists" (1 John 2:18, 26; 4:1-6). An antichrist is literally someone who is against the Messiah anti (against), instead of, Christos, Messiah, anointed one.

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III. WALK IN OBEDIENCE

False Teachers
2 John 7-13

7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

This is not a separate category of people from the deceivers, but instead those who deceive concerning Christ's nature are opposed to Christ and are described with both of these terms. The errors of the heretic are both moral and doctrinal; the latter is in focus here. The Greek word homologeo (ho-mah-lo-GEH-oh), translated as "confess," also means to admit or affirm. A heretic denies the incarnation of Christ as fully man and fully deity.

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III. WALK IN OBEDIENCE

False Teachers
2 John 7-13

8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

This is the first command of the letter: a warning to be on guard. The present imperative of the Greek word, blepo (BLEH-poh), implies continual watchfulness to prevent disaster. John commanded readers to reject the enticement of error for two reasons: to prevent the ruin of what both they and John had worked for, and to ensure that they would be paid their reward in full.

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III. WALK IN OBEDIENCE

False Teachers
2 John 7-13

9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

Two contradictory consequences of heterodoxy (or false doctrine) and orthodoxy are stated. The negative is first mentioned. The Greek word proago (pro-AH-goh), rendered "transgresseth," literally means to lead before. The false teachers were trying to change the core doctrine the Christians had received – he who fails to abide by the doctrine cannot have the Christ and His salvation. The opposite is also true. To remain continually in the doctrine or teaching of Christ, **showing belief in and obedience of the same**, is the proof of the believer's personal relationship to both the Father and the Son.

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III. WALK IN OBEDIENCE

False Teachers
2 John 7-13

10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

John added a practical note after warning about deceivers. He said that the church is not to receive these deceivers into their houses. He then went even further to say that they should not even bid them "God speed". This is the word for "rejoice" or "be glad." It became a common greeting or salutation that essentially meant to be well. The reason behind this action toward false teachers is that by receiving them into your home or wishing them well, you partake in the false teachers' evil deeds.

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III. WALK IN OBEDIENCE

False Teachers
2 John 7-13

12 Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full. **13** The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.

John concluded the letter by letting the church know that he had so much he wanted to say that he would rather tell them in person. He did not want any confusion or misunderstanding concerning what he said so that "our joy maybe full." He included himself in the experience of having this joy full. This word means to be complete or filled to the brim. John and the church's joy would be completed once they talk face to face. John finally ended with a salutation from the children of the elect sister. These might have been the biological children of a woman related to the elect lady or fellow converts of the church.

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LIGHT ON THE WORD

Meditate on God's Word

We should not be disrespectful or condemn cordiality toward unbelievers. However, fellowship with apostates is a serious matter to God. This letter serves as a warning to cherish sound doctrinal truth. To identify an imposter is to know the truth. Meditating on God's Word opens our spiritual eyes to learning the truth.

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BIBLE APPLICATION

AIM: We will affirm that observing the commandments protects the community of faith in love.

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BIBLE APPLICATION

Financial scandals, fueled by deception and greed, have crushed the American people's perception on our nation's financial stability. Financial crises caused many to lose their livelihood, sense of security, self-esteem, and dignity. Lives were ruined and many never recovered economically or emotionally. Believing a lie is dangerous and costly. Christ's teaching is in direct opposition to the deception and selfishness that are rampant in our society. Jesus commands that we live in love and honesty. Anyone who claims devotion to Christ must live by these directives.

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STUDENT RESPONSES

AIM: We will identify false teachings against the commandments of Christ and ways to respond to these false teachings.

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STUDENT RESPONSES

To remain faithful to Jesus' teaching requires tenacity and a commitment to study God's Word. It also means obeying His commandments. We can also help others who do not know the truth through our testimonies and sharing the Good News of the Gospel. Make a decision to share your testimony about how God transformed your life!

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Prayer

Dear God,

Open our eyes to false teachings that draw us away from You. Allow us to see and be active participants with Jesus in our hearts, minds, and bodies.

In Jesus' Name we pray.

Amen.

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Next Sunday
May 4, 2025
Lesson 10
Coworkers with the Truth
3 John