Journey CHURCH
Pastor James Greer
James@jcpineville.com
www.jcpineville.com

Session 7 Leader Guide

2 John - Walking in Truth

BIG IDEA: Truth matters. God's truth gives us a standard for understanding reality, teaches us how to love, and protects us from deception. Because feelings and opinions change, believers must know God's truth, live by it, and help one another remain grounded in it.

OPEN — WHAT IS TRUE?

Opening Question: Have you ever believed something was true and later discovered it wasn't? **What convinced you to believe it in the first place?**

Read: 2 John 1–3

- We live in a world filled with competing ideas about what is true.
- Tony defines truth as **"an absolute standard by which reality is measured."**
- Truth doesn't change simply because our feelings or circumstances change.
- God gives us truth so we can understand reality and know how to live.

1. TRUTH GIVES US A STANDARD

Tony explains an important difference between **facts and truth**.

- Facts are statements about reality.
- Truth helps us understand the **"why" and "so what"** behind those facts.
- Feelings may be real, but feelings change.
- God's truth gives us something solid to build our lives on.

If truth is determined only by what we feel, then our standard changes whenever our feelings change.

Our feelings are real, but they don't determine what is true.

Pastor James Greer
James@jcpineville.com
www.jcpineville.com

2. TRUTH TEACHES US HOW TO LOVE

Read: 2 John 4–6

John connects **truth, obedience, and love**.

Biblical love isn't simply doing what feels loving in the moment.

- God's truth defines what love is.
- Love follows God's commands.
- Our feelings may change, but God's command to love does not.
- Understanding God's love for us teaches us how to love others.

We don't define love by our feelings. We learn what love is from God.

3. TRUTH PROTECTS US FROM DECEPTION

Read: 2 John 7–9

John warns believers about deceivers who distort the truth about Jesus.

False teaching can sound convincing, which is why John tells believers to **watch themselves carefully**.

- Know what you believe.
- Compare what you hear with God's truth.
- Be careful about voices that reshape Jesus or His teaching.
- Allow other believers to help you remain grounded.

The better we know the truth, the easier it becomes to recognize a lie.

4. WE NEED EACH OTHER TO STAY GROUNDED

See: Galatians 6:1; Hebrews 3:13–15; 12:1–2

God hasn't designed us to follow Jesus alone.

Other believers can:

- Encourage us when we're struggling.
- Challenge us when we're drifting.
- Help us recognize deception.
- Pray for us.
- Remind us of God's truth.

The church should be a community where believers **help one another keep following Jesus faithfully**.

5. STAY GROUNDED IN GOD'S WORD

Read: 2 John 8–11

John takes false teaching seriously because **what we believe affects how we live**.

Tony points believers back to God's Word as our source for understanding truth.

God hasn't left us alone trying to figure out life.

He has given us:

- **His Word**
- **His Spirit**
- **His people**

The more deeply we know God's truth, the better prepared we are to recognize ideas that would lead us away from Him.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Walking in truth means:

- Let God's truth—not your feelings—define reality.
- Allow truth to shape how you love.
- Test what you hear instead of automatically believing it.
- Surround yourself with believers who help you stay grounded.
- Spend time in God's Word so you know the truth for yourself.

Truth isn't something we simply believe. It's something we build our lives on.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think people are sometimes more willing to believe something they want to be true than something that actually is true?

2. Tony defines truth as “an absolute standard by which reality is measured.” What difference would it make if everyone simply decided truth for themselves?

3. What's the difference between saying “this is how I feel” and saying “this is what is true”? Why is understanding that difference important?

4. John connects truth with love. How can relying only on our feelings make it difficult to love someone consistently?

5. With so many voices trying to influence what we believe, how can we recognize when an idea sounds good but doesn't line up with God's truth?

6. Who are the people in your life who can challenge you when you're drifting and encourage you to stay grounded in God's truth? Are you allowing them to do that?

7. What's one practical change you could make this week to spend more time in God's Word and allow His truth to have a greater influence on the way you think and live?