

The Christmas Letters.

Lesson 2

Chapter 2 Love Incarnate: The Word of Life Revealed

Read Chapter 2 pages 35-67

Read The Gospel of John Chapter 1

1 JOHN, JOHN 1, AND GENESIS *(page 38)*

1. What is the bold announcement that John makes in 1 John 1:1-2?
2. Discuss the parallel themes introduced in the introductions to Genesis, the Gospel of John and 1 John?

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INCARNATE WITH ONE ANOTHER *(page 45)*

1. What is the central premise of 1 John?
2. Discuss the “common” sense of unity vs. the “ordinary” sense of unity.

FELLOWSHIP IN TRUTH AND LOVE *(pages 48-51)*

1. To have a full relationship with one another, discuss the balance between truth and love.
 - a. What might be the characteristics of a relationship of truth without love?
 - b. What might be the characteristics of a relationship of love without truth?
2. Discuss why it is important to have both truth and love in a relationship.

LIVING TRUTHFULLY, LIKE JESUS *(pages 51-56)*

1. John gives many examples in 1 John about what constitutes a lie. Do any of these examples surprise you? When we think of a lie we often think of obvious falsehoods. We often do not consider subtle denials or acts of refusal as lies. Review the list of examples from 1 John on page 52 and try to think of there are subtle ways or acts in our life that these examples may apply.

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2. What does living “*Truthfully*” like Jesus look like?
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3. How does the difference between *actions and attitudes* make a difference in the lives of Christians and the church. (*Pages 53-56*)

LIVING LOVINGLY, LIKE JESUS (*pages 56-60*)

1. Does loving one another come naturally? What is our base instinct? (*page 58*)
2. Discuss how love involves movement, growth, and change. (*Pages 59- 60*)
3. Discuss the relationship of time and love (*Pages 60-61*)

LIVING IN TRUTH AND LOVE (*pages 61-63*)

1. Why is practicing love more difficult than speaking love?
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2. Discuss the balance between love and truth as a means of staying connected to one another and to God. (*page 62*)
3. What does it mean to hold your truth lovingly?
4. How can we use our discussion of truth and love to strengthen our relationships.
 - a. What can we do, or how can we act on what we have discussed?

A CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM GOD (*pages 64-65*)

1. What can we learn from John’s first epistle?
 - a.

CLOSING

2. Read the letter from God on page 65