

## **Field Guide and Leader Guide 8.3.25**

### **Scripture Reference**

2 John 1:1–6

### **Summary**

Letters matter. Especially when they carry both truth and love. In 2 John 1:1–6, John writes like a spiritual father who knows and loves his readers. He opens not with correction, but with deep affection and shared conviction. He rejoices that some of the church members are walking in truth and gently reminds them to keep walking in love. These aren't two separate ideas pulling in different directions. They are like two oars on a rowboat, meant to work together to move our faith forward. Truth without love becomes hard and brittle. Love without truth turns soft and aimless. But held together, they produce something beautiful.

We've seen it happen. A student invites his friends over to hang out and ends up sharing the gospel by the fire. Two others spend their holiday praying for strangers in a public park. Another quietly pursues Scripture and starts to reflect Christ in how he lives. This is what happens when God's truth takes root and begins to shape a life. When truth is embraced and love is expressed, something powerful unfolds. John saw it in his day, and we see it in ours. The greatest joy comes when truth becomes obedience and love becomes action.

### **Questions and Follow-Up**

1. **Which do you lean toward more, truth or love, and how can you better pursue both in your daily walk with Jesus?**
  - Follow-Up: Where have you seen the imbalance show up in your past relationships or decisions?
  - Follow-Up: What would it look like for you to intentionally lean into the side you tend to neglect this week?
2. **Have you ever tried to correct someone with truth but forgot love, or loved someone without ever sharing the truth? What happened?**

- Follow-Up: How did the other person respond in that situation?
  - Follow-Up: What could have changed if truth and love had been working together?
3. **When have you experienced joy from walking in both truth and love? What made that moment stand out?**
- Follow-Up: Who in your life has modeled that kind of joyful faith for you?
  - Follow-Up: How can you create more of those moments in your relationships and walk with Jesus?

### **Scripture References**

John 14:6 | John 15:10–11 | 1 Peter 1:22

### **Conclusion**

If you live with only truth, you risk becoming cold. If you cling to only love, you risk becoming lost. But when you walk in both truth and love, you reflect the heart of Christ. Parents weep for joy when their children come back to Jesus, not just believing the truth but beginning to live it with love. That's what John is rejoicing over. Not just right belief, but Spirit-led obedience.

So ask yourself: Are you rowing in circles, or are you moving forward with Jesus? Truth and love were never meant to compete. They were made to move together. Like two oars in the hands of a faithful disciple, they move us toward Christ and into the joy of truly following Him. In tandem.