



Small Group Guide: Walking in Truth Based on 2 John - "Surviving the Jungle"

****Ice Breaker Question:****

Share about a time when you felt "lost" or had to navigate through something difficult. What helped you find your way through?

Sermon Recap

The pastor used the story of four Colombian children who survived 40 days in the Amazon jungle to illustrate how believers must use what they've been taught to navigate life until we reach our eternal home. John's second letter gives us five essential reminders for this journey:

1. Live in God's grace, mercy, and peace
2. Walk in the truth
3. Love one another
4. Obey His commandments
5. Guard your mind against false teaching

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Grace, Mercy, and Peace

1. ****The pastor said we're greeted with "grace, mercy, and peace" instead of what we deserve: "judgment, condemnation, and shame." How does starting your day with this truth change your perspective?****

2. **Read Lamentations 3:22-23. The pastor challenged us to begin each day with praise before checking our phones or even praying our requests. What obstacles prevent you from doing this? What would it look like practically in your morning routine?**

3. **Share a recent situation where remembering God's grace, mercy, and peace helped you respond differently than you might have otherwise.**

Part 2: Walking in Truth (15 minutes)

4. **John says he has "no greater joy" than seeing God's children walking in truth. What does it mean to "walk in truth" versus "following your heart"?**

5. **The pastor emphasized that walking implies intentional, conscious effort with a direction in mind. In what areas of your life are you "walking with purpose" spiritually, and where might you be "wandering aimlessly"?**

6. **Read 1 John 1:6-7. What does it look like practically to "walk in the light" in your current season of life?**

Part 3: Love One Another

7. **The pastor asked some pointed questions: Is there anybody you're avoiding? Anyone with unresolved conflict? How would you honestly answer these questions?**

8. **Read Galatians 6:10. Paul says to do good to all people, but "especially those who are of the household of faith." Why do you think there's a special emphasis on loving fellow believers? How does our group/church do at this?**

9. **The pastor used the illustration of athletes who never train alone. Who in this community is helping you "train" spiritually? Who might you help train?**

Part 4: Obedience and Guarding Truth

10. **Read John 14:15. Jesus says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." The pastor said we "prove our love" by how we live, not "earn our way." What's the difference, and why does it matter?**

11. **John draws a hard line about not even welcoming false teachers into your home (2 John 10-11). The pastor clarified this isn't about unbelievers, but those who claim to know God while denying Christ. Why is this distinction important? How do we balance being on guard while remaining welcoming to genuine seekers?**

12. **The pastor used his guard dog Bear as an illustration of being constantly vigilant. What influences in your life (media, relationships, entertainment) might be trying to pull you away from truth? How can you be more "on guard"?**

Key Takeaways

- **Start with praise:** Begin each day acknowledging God's grace, mercy, and peace before anything else
- **Walk with intention:** Move deliberately toward God's truth, not aimlessly following emotions
- **Love is essential:** The church survives and thrives when we actively care for one another
- **Obedience proves love:** Our actions demonstrate the authenticity of our faith

- **Guard your mind:** Be vigilant about what influences your thinking and theology

Practical Applications

Choose one or more to commit to this week:

1. **Morning Praise Practice:** Set a reminder to speak one truth about God's character before checking your phone each morning. Use Lamentations 3:22-23 or Isaiah 61:10 as a starting point.
2. **Intentional Love:** Identify one person in this group or church you can intentionally encourage or serve this week. Reach out to them.
3. **Resolve Conflict:** If there's unresolved conflict with another believer, take a step toward reconciliation this week.
4. **Media Audit:** Evaluate one area of media consumption (podcasts, social media, TV shows, books) and ask: "Is this helping me walk in truth or pulling me away?"
5. **Memorize Truth:** Choose one verse from this sermon to memorize that will help you "survive the jungle" this week.