

# John's Letter to the Chosen Lady



## Teacher's Guide

### Materials

Bibles; chalkboard/whiteboard/flipboard and appropriate markers

### Surveying the Source

Exod. 20:1–17; Rom. 6:17; 2 Thess. 2:9, 10; Heb. 13:2, 3; 2 John; Rev. 2:14, 15; 14:12.

### Plotting the Course

#### The students will:

► Understand and identify ways God uses people to warn others of harmful activities or beliefs.

► Be able to identify current interests that can lead to problems or ruin their

relationship with Jesus.

► Be able to share methods they can use to warn others of dangers to their spiritual life.

### Preparing to Lead

John does not write long letters. The length may be due to the size of the sheet of papyrus available at that time. He is writing because he's concerned about the false teachers who are taking advantage of the Christians' hospitality. Because the followers of Christ are being kind to oth-

ers, they are exposed to things that are not true. His warning is to be careful whom we listen to and believe. This is still a valid warning today. We need to test what others are saying. Read Matthew 7:19, 20.

### Getting Started

**A.** Brainstorm with your class things that could turn your attention away from having a strong relationship with Jesus. Have someone write them on a flipchart. These can be good things that become obsessions and therefore, dangerous. *Suggestions:* television, computers, games, music, books, magazines, sports, entertainment, sleeping, or daydreaming.

Select one of the items on the list. Using the reproducible activity on page 42, have each student draw a design describing different directions this interest might lead a person. Try to identify both a good and a bad direction.

**B.** Remind the class that grace, mercy, peace, truth, and love are the focus of John's second letter. He reminds us that loving others is not a new command. *Ask:* "Why do you think this is written as a command rather than a suggestion?"

Explain that the Greek word *gnosis* means "knowledge." *Say:* "The Gnostics were early Christians. They claimed to have secret knowledge about God. Their teachings were very deceptive. John warns believers to be careful whom they listen to, and that even those who appear to be like the apostles may mislead." Have someone read 1 John 1:3.

### Delving Into the Word

**A.** *Say:* "Traditionally, disciples select

who they want to have for a teacher. This

was not the case with Jesus' disciples. Jesus chose them. The early Christians were warned about many things that could lead them away from Jesus and their spiritual walk with Him. We're going to look back at some of the guidance Jesus' disciples and the early Christians had available to them and discuss how this information applies to us today." Use the following questions and thoughts to guide this discussion: ●The apostles are instructed to take care to do what is right. Why? 2 Corinthians 8:21. ● In Deuteronomy 13:1–5, Moses describes a harsh punishment for those who deceive God's people. Why did God give this punishment? Was this fair? What should we do today? ●What happens to those who follow deceivers? Revelation 2:14–16 ●What happens to those who seek God? 2 Chronicles 15:15. What kind of rest is Moses talking about? ●What does it take to be godly? 1 Timothy 4:7, 8 ●Even David, the king, asked to be guided. Psalm 25:4, 5 ●What happens when we follow Jesus' teachings? John 8:31 ●From where does our teaching and learning come? Deuteronomy 6:5–8 ●Who teaches us now? John 16:12, 13 ●Like the disciples, we can reflect back

to David's prayer. Psalm 119:1–8.

**B. Say:** "Today, we're going to discover what the Bible tells us about our spiritual life and the dangers that can destroy that life or keep it from growing." Use the following questions and thoughts to guide the discovery process: ●Do not let anyone deceive you. 2 Thessalonians 2:3 ●God's words are the truth. Psalm 119:160 ●Walk with God and be blessed. Psalm 119:1 ●Why do you think we are instructed to love God first and then our neighbor? Mark 12:30, 31 ●We should not judge or be judged by food and drink. Why? ●What types of judgment might you face today? Colossians 2:16. ●Avoid foolish arguments. We should try to warn others, but if they ignore us, we must leave them alone. Titus 3:9–11 ●Be a good minister to others. 1 Timothy 4:6 ●Do not twist what is good into believing it is evil. Romans 14:16–18 ●How can we know the truth? John 14:6 ●We need to remain faithful and patient. Revelation 14:12 ●What warning are we given about the last days? 2 Timothy 3:1–5 ●What happens to those who refuse truth? 2 Thessalonians 2:10. ●Remember, we belong to God. 1 John 3:9.

## Discussing the Ideas

1. Why do you think John might have thought it important to write this letter instead of waiting until he visited them?
2. Why would John want to talk more about his concerns in person rather than write a longer letter first?
3. Who would the Holy Spirit impress

to share this type of message today?

4. What methods might be used to share our concerns about others today?
5. When might you be impressed to share a message of warning or concern?
6. What might you need to warn others about today?

## Closing the Activity

Role-play ways you could appropriately warn people about a danger they don't realize they are facing. Show the same loving spirit John displays in his letter. *For example:* ●Talk with a friend who is fixated on TV soap operas. ●Work

with a friend to find an alternative activity to replace spending too much time playing video games. ●Demonstrate how to select an appropriate book to read. ●Refocus a daydreamer onto something positive and productive.

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The selected item is: \_\_\_\_\_  
Where can it take you?