1, 2, 3 John & Jude

Lesson 3: Don't Believe the Lies

**Lessons in this series:** [1](http://www.teensundayschool.com/320/lesson/gods-light.php) [2](http://www.teensundayschool.com/324/lesson/a-life-of-love.php) **3**

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Goals

1. To give students a basic understanding of 2 & 3 John and Jude  
2. To reveal to students the lies that they are told about God each day  
3. To inspire students to live according to the Truth of the Gospel

Topics

Deception, Discernment, False Teaching, Light, Truth

Scripture Memorization

3 John 1:3

OPENING PRAYER (5 to 10 minutes)

GROUP BUILDING (5 minutes)

Play “Lie to Me.” Have everyone share a lie about their life in the form of a story. There should be lots of true things in the story, but have them slip in a few lies here and there. Once they are done telling their story, have the rest of the group try to guess what details were not true. Give each person a chance to share a story. It will probably be funny, as kids try to lie without showing it. The stories might get pretty ridiculous, but it will serve as a good intro to our lesson.

GETTING STARTED (10 minutes)

**General Discussion:**1. Why do you think it is so easy to believe lies?  
2. Why do you think liars find it so easy to deceive?  
3. Have you ever told a lie and completely fooled everyone?  
4. What is the ultimate end of a lie that is believed?  
5. How do lies hurt people?  
6. What do you think is the biggest lie ever told?  
  
Today, we’re going to talk about lies and the Truth. As we look at 2 & 3 John, as well as Jude, we’ll see that many lies were advanced about Jesus, the Gospel, and the work of the Church. John and Jude urge disciples not to believe these liars and the lies they tell, but instead embrace the Gospel. I want to encourage you to do the same thing in your life.

DIGGING IN (30 minutes)

Because these books are so short, we are going to take the rare opportunity to read the entire text. Select three students. Have one of them read 2 John, one 3 John, and one Jude. Invite the rest of the group to follow along, listening particularly for references to the Truth and/or lies. Make sure they listen for other Truth/lie words (deceit, etc.).

A list of verses that explicitly or implicitly refer to the Truth or lying are listed below. After you go through all three books, have students answer the questions as they pertain to these verses.

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| **Read 2 John** 2 John • 1:1 • 1:2 • 1:3 • 1:4 • 1:7 | **Read 3 John** 3 John • 1:1 • 1:3 • 1:4 • 1:8 • 1:12 | **Read Jude** Jude • 1:4 • 1:8 • 1:10 • 1:13 • 1:16 • 1:18 |

**Discussion Questions:** 1. Why do you think the writers of these books emphasize Truth so much?  
2. What were some of the things that happened to lead people astray? *(False teaching, scoffers and doubters, etc.)*3. John mentions the Truth ten times in twenty-seven verses. That’s almost every other verse! How important do you think the Truth is to John?  
4. Jude talks more about false teachers. Though he doesn’t mention the word “Truth” at all, what does he warn followers of Christ to do? *(Ignore the scoffers and doubters who try to get people to stray from the Truth.)*5. How does an attack on the Truth cause decay in the Church’s teaching? *(Doctrine becomes watered down, questioned, or changed.)*  
6. If followers of Christ believe lies about the Gospel, how will it ultimately end?

MAKING IT REAL (10 minutes)

The message of these three books is just as helpful and applicable today as it was when it was first written. The Truth—about Jesus, the Gospel, the Church—is being attacked by scoffers, liars, and doubters all the time.  
  
**General Discussion:**  
1. What are some of the lies you have heard about Jesus?  
2. What are some of the lies you have heard about the church?  
3. What are some of the lies you have heard about the Gospel?  
4. How do you know they are lies?  
5. If you have had a hard time coming up with any lies that you’ve heard, do you think that’s because you haven’t heard any or because you don’t know the difference between truth and lies?

I want to suggest that there are a couple of things you must realize if you can follow the teachings of John & Jude here.   
  
**1. Know the Truth  
  
Read John 8:32**Jesus says in John 8:32, “you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” But what about the verse right before that?

**Read John 8:31  
  
Discussion Questions:**    
1. What does Jesus say is the key to knowing the Truth? *(Holding on to His teachings.)*2. If you do this, what happens? *(You become disciples.)*  
3. What is the result of knowing the Truth? *(The Truth offers freedom.)*  
4. Over what do you gain freedom? *(Lies, deceit, doubt, and destruction.)*So abiding in the word of God causes us to know the Truth. Knowing the Truth makes us free from deceit and lies, like the ones John and Jude talk about.  And that saves us from the fire and judgment Jude talks about.

Don’t miss this point—you know the Truth by abiding in Christ. If you aren’t walking with Jesus, it is easy to be lied to.  
  
**2. Live & Love the Truth**We read in these letters the importance of allowing Truth to invade every area of your life. It’s not enough to know the Truth, you have to live it.

*(Have someone read the following Scriptures. You’ve read them already, but revisiting them will help in the application process.)*

• 2 John 1:4--6  
• 2 John 1:9  
• 3 John 1:3-4  
• 3 John 1:11  
• Jude 1:20-21

If you are abiding in Christ, it should make a difference in the way that you live.   
  
**Discussion Questions:**    
1. How do you think you can live the Truth in a practical, everyday way?  
2. How do you think you can love the Truth in a practical, everyday way?  
3. What does a life that does the opposite look like?  
4. Is your life reflective of someone who lives and loves the Truth, or the opposite?

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

Have your students get into small groups of three or four. Suggest that everyone share a prayer need with the other members of his or her group and then spend five or ten minutes praying for each other.