

STUDYING THE BOOK OF 3 JOHN
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 1 - From the Elder - [3 John 1:1-15](#)

Read the following verses in the Contemporary English Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

3 JOHN

1 From the church leader.
To my dear friend Gaius.

I love you because we follow the truth, 2 dear friend, and I pray that all goes well for you. I hope that you are as strong in body, as I know you are in spirit. 3 It makes me very happy when the Lord's followers come by and speak openly of how you obey the truth. 4 Nothing brings me greater happiness than to hear that my children are obeying the truth.

Working Together

5 Dear friend, you have always been faithful in helping other followers of the Lord, even the ones you didn't know before. 6 They have told the church about your love. They say you were good enough to welcome them and to send them on their mission in a way that God's servants deserve. 7 When they left to tell others about the Lord, they decided not to accept help from anyone who wasn't a follower. 8 We must support people like them, so that we can take part in what they are doing to spread the truth.

9 I wrote to the church. But Diotrefes likes to be the number-one leader, and he won't pay any attention to us. 10 So if I come, I will remind him of how he has been attacking us with gossip. Not only has he been doing this, but he refuses to welcome any of the Lord's followers who come by. And when other church members want to welcome them, he puts them out of the church.

11 Dear friend, don't copy the evil deeds of others! Follow the example of people who do kind deeds. They are God's children, but those who are always doing evil have never seen God.

12 Everyone speaks well of Demetrius, and so does the true message that he teaches. I also speak well of him, and you know what I say is true.

Final Greetings

13 I have much more to say to you, but I don't want to write it with pen and ink. 14 I hope to see you soon, and then we can talk in person.

15 I pray that God will bless you with peace!

Your friends send their greetings. Please give a personal greeting to each of our friends.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. To whom was this letter addressed? ([1:1](#))
2. For what did "the elder" pray? ([1:2](#))
3. What gave the writer of 3 John great joy? ([1:3-4](#))
4. In what was the recipient of this letter faithful? ([1:5](#))
5. What information was circulating among the people in Gaius's church? ([1:6](#))
6. Why were "the brothers" sent out? ([1:7](#))
7. Why did the elder say that believers ought to show hospitality to Christians who serve God? ([1:8](#))
8. What did Diotrephes love? ([1:9](#))
9. What was Diotrephes doing? ([1:9-10](#))
10. What did the elder encourage Gaius to do? ([1:11](#))
11. What is true about people who do good and people who do evil? ([1:11](#))
12. What was commendable about Demetrius? ([1:12](#))
13. Why is 3 John so short? ([1:13-14](#))
14. What did the writer of 3 John hope to do? ([1:14](#))
15. If other believers were to give a report about you, how would they describe your faithfulness?

Bibliography

Contemporary English Version
The American Bible Society

Lesson Maker
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