

## 3John 1-15 Study Guide

### Background:

- **Author/date:** This epistle (letter) is written by the apostle John to an individual and was written around the same time as **1John** and **2John** (AD 90-95). This was close to the end of John's life.
- **Purpose:** John is personally writing to an individual in **3John**.
- **Overview of all 3 epistles (letters):**
  - In **1John**, John is writing to all that are in the family of God. It is broad and general (no personal references are included). John is telling the whole church, including us, how they can test the validity of their faith, how they can be sure they are saved and ways (doctrinal and moral) they can test for that assuredness. Truth and love in sound doctrine define a true believer.
  - In **2John**, John writes to a family within the church. This family is identified anonymously as a "chosen lady and her children" with the final verse including her "sister's children". John calls for families to be loyal to the truth of God and not to open their homes to someone who is against the cause of Christ.
  - In **3John**, John personally writes to an individual by name. He tells the individual, Gaius, to be loyal to the truth, to not withhold the truth from others as well as not allowing someone else to prevent sharing God's truth. Those who are in the truth should not be prohibited from helping those who represent the truth. John addresses an issue that Diotrephes is forbidding them and putting them out of the church as well as commending Demetrius for his stand in the truth.

### Scriptures in Study Guide:

Scriptures this week are in the CSB (Christian Standard Bible). To make things easier, the actual verses will be included in your daily lessons to help you with the missing words. If you have any questions, write them down and we'll discuss them when we meet Sunday mornings at 9:45 am.

### Day 1 - 3John - verses 1-4

**Pray** God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.  
Read **3John verses 1-4** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

- 1** The elder: To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth. **2** Dear friend, I pray that you are prospering in every way and are in good health, just as your whole life is going well. **3** For I was very glad when fellow believers came and testified to your fidelity to the truth—how you are walking in truth. **4** I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.

### 3John - verse 1:

- The \_\_\_\_\_:
- To my \_\_\_\_\_ friend Gaius, whom I love in \_\_\_\_\_ truth.

### Questions:

- Who do you think "the elder" is? (**Hint:** it's the author of this epistle/letter) \_\_\_\_\_
- How close of a friend is Gaius to John? \_\_\_\_\_
- What "truth" do you think that John is talking about? \_\_\_\_\_

Write out **John 14:6**: \_\_\_\_\_

Write out **Philippians 2:1-2**: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thought Point:**

- If Jesus is the truth (**John 14:6**) and we, as believers, are unified by having the mind of Jesus Christ (**Philippians 2:1-2**), what would that say about the friendship that John and Gaius share?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3John - verse 2:**

- Dear friend, I \_\_\_\_\_ that you are prospering in \_\_\_\_\_ way and are in good \_\_\_\_\_, just as your whole life is going \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Question:** - What does John pray for his dear friend, Gaius? \_\_\_\_\_

\*3John, Verses 1 & 2 are a greeting much like if we would say "How have you been? I hope you are well"

**3John - verse 3:**

- For I was \_\_\_\_\_ glad when fellow \_\_\_\_\_ came and testified to your \_\_\_\_\_ to the truth —how you are \_\_\_\_\_ in truth.
- **Questions:**
- What was John very glad about? \_\_\_\_\_
- What did fellow believers come and testify about Gaius to John? \_\_\_\_\_

**3John - verse 4:**

- I have no greater \_\_\_\_\_ than this: to \_\_\_\_\_ that my children are \_\_\_\_\_ in truth.
- **Question:** What does John say his greatest joy is in **3John verse 4**? \_\_\_\_\_

Write out **1John 2:4-5** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- **Question:** What do you think John means by walking in the truth? What was Gaius living according to? (**Hint: 1John 2:4-5**) \_\_\_\_\_

## **Day 2 - 3John -verses 5-8**

**Pray** God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.  
Read **3John verses 5-8** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

**5** Dear friend, you are acting faithfully in whatever you do for the brothers and sisters, especially when they are strangers. **6** They have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God, **7** since they set out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from pagans. **8** Therefore, we ought to support such people so that we can be coworkers with the truth.

### **3John - verse 5:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ friend, you are acting \_\_\_\_\_ in whatever you \_\_\_\_\_ for the brothers and sisters, especially when they are \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Questions:**

- How does John say his dear friend is acting? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is his dear friend, Gaius, doing? \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** During this time period, it was dangerous for a traveler to stay at an inn. Many times, people would open up their homes so that a person traveling could stay at a safe place.

### **3John - verse 6-7:**

- They have \_\_\_\_\_ to your love \_\_\_\_\_ the church.
- You \_\_\_\_\_ do well to send them on their \_\_\_\_\_ in a manner worthy of \_\_\_\_\_,
- since they set out for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Name, accepting \_\_\_\_\_ from pagans.

#### **Questions:**

- What have others testified about Gaius before the church? \_\_\_\_\_
- In what manner should Gaius send these on their way? In a manner \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Why should Gaius send them out in a manner worthy of God? (**Hint verse 7**) \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** John is telling Gaius that his hospitality toward those in the Lord has prevented them from having to accept things from pagans (non-believers). His hospitality has protected them.

### **3John - verse 8:**

- Therefore, we \_\_\_\_\_ to support such people so that we can be coworkers with the truth.

#### **Questions:**

- What is the “Therefore” there for? (Hint: look back at **verses 6 & 7**):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why should we support these travelers with our hospitality? \_\_\_\_\_

Write out **1 Corinthians 3:8-9**: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Question** - If we look at **1 Corinthians 3:8-9**, we learn that each believer has a role in God’s service. With that in mind, what do you think John means that “we can be coworkers with the truth” (**3John verse 8**)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Day 3 - 3John -verses 9-10**

**Pray** God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.  
Read **3John verse 9-10** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

**9** I wrote something to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have first place among them, does not receive our authority. **10** This is why, if I come, I will remind him of the works he is doing, slandering us with malicious words. And he is not satisfied with that! He not only refuses to welcome fellow believers, but he even stops those who want to do so and expels them from the church.

#### **3John - verse 9:**

- I \_\_\_\_\_ something to the church, but \_\_\_\_\_, who loves to have \_\_\_\_\_ place among them, does not \_\_\_\_\_ our authority.

#### **Questions:**

- Who wrote something to the church? (**Hint:** writer of this epistle/letter)? \_\_\_\_\_
- What does Diotrephes love? \_\_\_\_\_
- What does Diotrephes not receive from the apostle John (writer of this epistle/letter)? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **3John - verse 10:**

- This is \_\_\_\_\_, if I come, I will \_\_\_\_\_ him of the works he is doing, \_\_\_\_\_ us with malicious words.
- And he is \_\_\_\_\_ satisfied with that!
- He not only \_\_\_\_\_ to welcome fellow \_\_\_\_\_, but he even \_\_\_\_\_ those who want \_\_\_\_\_ do so and expels them \_\_\_\_\_ - the church.

#### **Questions:**

- What will the apostle John remind Diotrephes of? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are the works that Diotrephes is doing against John and those with him in the cause of Christ? slandering \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.
- Is Diotrephes satisfied with just slandering them with malicious words? \_\_\_\_\_
- What does Diotrephes refuse to do? \_\_\_\_\_
- What else does Diotrephes do when those in the church want to welcome fellow believers?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### **Day 4 - 3John -verses 11-12**

**Pray** God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.  
Read **3John 5:11-12** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

**Note:** As we move into **3John verses 11-12**, we are introduced to another person, Demetrius. It can be confusing since Demetrius' name looks a lot like Diotrephes at first glance. Demetrius is the opposite of Diotrephes. Demetrius does what God says and they testify to Gaius of Demetrius goodness. Basically, the apostle John is telling Gaius to follow (or imitate) Demetrius and not Diotrephes.

**11** Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God. **12** Everyone speaks well of Demetrius—even the truth itself. And we also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.

#### **3John - verse 11:**

- Dear \_\_\_\_\_, do not \_\_\_\_\_ what is evil, but \_\_\_\_\_ is good.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ who does good \_\_\_\_\_ of God; the one who \_\_\_\_\_ evil has not \_\_\_\_\_ God.

#### **Questions:**

- What is Gaius not suppose to imitate? \_\_\_\_\_
- What should Gaius do instead of imitating evil? \_\_\_\_\_
- The one who does good is of Who? \_\_\_\_\_
- What do we learn, in **3John verse 11**, about a person who does evil?  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **3John - verse 12:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ speaks well of Demetrius—even the truth itself.
- And we \_\_\_\_\_ speak \_\_\_\_\_ of him, and you \_\_\_\_\_ that our testimony is \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Questions:**

- How many speak well of Demetrius? \_\_\_\_\_
- What do you think that the apostle John means by that “even the truth itself” speaks well of Demetrius? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who also speaks well of Demetrius? \_\_\_\_\_
- What does Gaius know, according to **3 John verse 12**, about their testimony of Demetrius?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 5 - 3John -verses 13-15**

**Pray** God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.  
Read **3John 5:13-15** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

**13** I have many things to write you, but I don't want to write to you with pen and ink. **14** I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. **15** Peace to you. The friends send you greetings. Greet the friends by name.

**3John - verse 13:**

- I have \_\_\_\_\_ things to write you, \_\_\_\_\_ I don't want \_\_\_\_\_ write to you with \_\_\_\_\_ and ink.

**Questions:**

- How many things does John have to write to Gaius? \_\_\_\_\_
- What does he not want to write them with? \_\_\_\_\_ -

**3John - verse 14:**

- I \_\_\_\_\_ to see you soon, and we will talk \_\_\_\_\_ to face.

**Questions:**

- What does John hope? \_\_\_\_\_
- How does John want them to talk after this letter? \_\_\_\_\_
- What do you think "face to face" mean? \_\_\_\_\_

**3John - verse 15:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ to you.
- The friends send you \_\_\_\_\_.
- Greet the friends \_\_\_\_\_ name.

**Questions:**

- Who sends greetings to Gaius? \_\_\_\_\_
- How does John say that Gaius should greet the friend? by \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** This last verse (**verse 15**) is John's closing much like we would say "see you soon" or "sincerely". John says "Peace to you" and then last words.

**Notes:**