

Little Letters | 3 John

March 9th, 10th 2024

My Story Questions

These questions/activities help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one. OR.... You might start the meeting with one person sharing highlights of their story. Set up a rotation.

- 1) In what way have you tried to imitate another in some manner?
- 2) As Easter approaches, have you, or anyone you know, made changes in an effort to prepare the heart?

Study Questions

Try to go in order from observation to interpretation to application. Feel free to choose a few questions you like from each section or add your own.

Observation Questions: What do you observe about the text?

Read 3 John

- 1) Who are the main characters mentioned in 3 John? What do we learn about John, Gaius, Diotrephes, and Demetrius?
- 2) Explore the words of commendation John had for Gaius. What qualities does John appreciate in him?
- 3) Discuss the concerns John expresses about Diotrephes. What behaviors does John criticize?
- 4) Do you identify a key verse or can you summarize a key principle from this text?

Interpretation Questions: What does it mean? (Let scripture interpret scripture)

- 5) Gaius was showing hospitality to God's people at cost to himself. How does the disposition of a welcoming and generous spirit reflect Jesus? (John 14:1-3, John 1:12)
- 6) Who do you know that embodies this kind of disposition? What specific actions could you begin to imitate? (1 Corinthians 11:1)
- 7) Diotrephes struggled coming under John's authority. Explore how the principles of leadership and authority might relate in the context of local churches today. How about in the workplace? (Romans 13:1-5)
- 8) How is pride the enemy of hospitality and generosity? (Philippians 2:3-5, Romans 12:3, 1 Peter 5,6)
- 9) How does John address the balance between truth and love? What are the implications of this balance on our interactions with other followers? What about those who don't follow Jesus yet?

Application Questions: What do I do?

- 10) Consider John's encouragement to support and welcome traveling missionaries. How can your group effectively support a global ministry worker/s? Do you need to?
- 11) Hospitality and generosity to God's workers is to be offered "in a manner worthy of God". (vs 6) What does that look like for you?
- 12) How can the insights gained from this letter influence you to live out a more Gospel-centered and Relationally Connected lifestyle?

Responding to Jesus

Offer these questions for personal reflection before your group prayer time. Practice listening for God's voice.

- 1) Lord, "Who would you like me to watch and imitate as they imitate you regarding hospitality?"
- 2) Lord, "Is there an element of pride that is keeping me from extending a welcoming spirit toward others?"