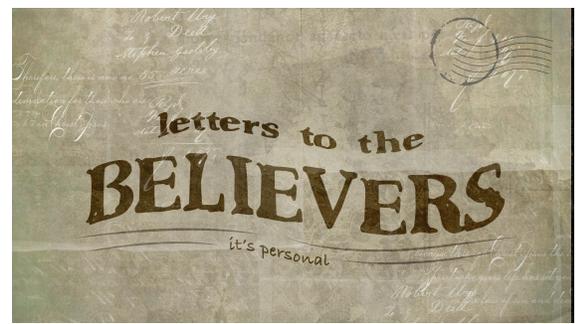




Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



Love and Support

Introduction: 3 John is the shortest letter in Bible. This small letter, says a lot. It speaks well of the love that Gaius has for the gospel and his support of the preaching of the gospel. John writes to thank him for his generosity and hospitality in supporting those who preach the name of Jesus!

Text: 3 John

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: How have you supported someone else in their ministry for the gospel?
2. 3 John 2—If your physical health was a reflection on your spiritual health . . . how healthy would you be?
3. 3 John 2 is a word of blessing to Gaius. Some think that it is possible that Gaius could have been battling some type of sickness. We will never know. However, this does bring out a truth. Christians do get sick. Some teach that if a Christian is sick, then it is a result of sin or lack of faith. Some also teach that if a person is not healed, then they must not had enough faith. How is this teaching dangerous and why is it incorrect?
4. 3 John 3-4. What does it mean to walk in truth?
5. 3 John 5. Ministry is effort! Serving Jesus will cost you. It will cost you time, energy, and resources. How have you put forth effort in service to Christ?
6. 3 John 8-9. John says that Gaius is doing a great thing in supporting those who preach God's word. He says that it is something that we "ought" to do. It is the responsibility of God's people to provide for God's work. How are you supporting the mission of the gospel through your giving?
7. John says that those who support the ministry cause are fellow workers for the truth. This means that every believer who supports the gospel work is part of the work. How does that motivate you to support the ministry of the gospel?
8. Diotrephes is a man that is NOT the example to follow. 3 John 9-10—1. He is prideful 2. He disrespects the apostle John 3. He is slandering John's name 4. He is not supporting God's work 5. He is abusing others in the church. He represents the pastor, deacon, elder, or church member that attempts to seize power and gain control of a local church body. He does not lead with love, and does not support the work of God. How can you avoid following in his example, and how can you stop someone like him from destroying the church?
9. 3 John 11. We are told to imitate that which is good. Demetrius and Gaius were both men that were godly examples. If you want to act like someone, make sure that you are following in the footsteps of godly men and women. Who is it in your life that models how to live out their faith? How are you modeling the faith for someone else?

Think About it:

We must walk out our faith on a daily basis. The Lord has called us to love our fellow believers and to generously support the work of the ministry. We are part of something so much bigger than ourselves that it takes all of God's people working together. There is no room for selfish pride, jealousy, disrespect, and abuse in the body of Christ. We are to walk in truth and love.

Moving Forward:

How are you supporting the work of God in your local church body? Who is it in your church that is a blessing to you that you can encourage and bless this week? Take time this week to write a note to someone who is serving in your church and let them know how much you appreciate what they do!

