



3 JOHN

Small Group Guide: Living What We Believe

****Based on 3 John****

Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word and to help group members honestly examine their walk with Christ.

Ice Breaker (5-10 minutes)

Share about a person in your life whose name brings joy when it's mentioned. What makes them so special? How does their faith impact others?

Sermon Summary

This week we concluded our series through John's letters by studying 3 John—a personal letter addressing four individuals: John (the elder), Gaius (the faithful), Diotrephes (the prideful), and Demetrius (the joyful). The central question: ****Do we live what we say we believe?****

Key Takeaways

1. ****Following Jesus means relentlessly putting Him first in our lives**** (Matthew 6:33)
2. ****Following Jesus means faithfully stewarding whatever He has given us**** (time, resources, influence)
3. ****Following Jesus means living a humble and repentant life**** (refusing to put ourselves first)
4. ****Our lives must be different because of Jesus**** (not just our eternal destiny, but our daily reality)

Discussion Questions

About John's Prayer (Verses 1-4)

1. John prays that Gaius would prosper and be healthy "as his soul prospers."** How does this prayer challenge or encourage you? What would your life look like if your physical prosperity matched your spiritual health?
2. Reflect on this question from the sermon:** "What if the prayers for you said, 'I pray that they would prosper as much as their heart and soul is prospering'?" How does this make you feel? What does it reveal about your priorities?
3. Who in your life are you praying for regularly?** Are your prayers focused more on physical/material needs or spiritual growth? How can we balance both?

About Gaius (Verses 3-8)

4. **Gaius was commended for four things:** spiritual health, living what he believed, radical hospitality, and supporting missions. Which of these four areas is strongest in your life? Which needs the most growth?
5. **The sermon mentioned the quote: "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day."** When people observe your life, what "sermon" are they seeing? What would your coworkers, neighbors, or family say about your faith?
6. **Gaius showed hospitality to strangers for the sake of the gospel.** When was the last time you practiced radical hospitality or generosity? What holds us back from this kind of openness?
7. **John says supporting missionaries makes us "fellow workers for the truth."** How does this perspective change the way you view giving to missions or supporting gospel work?

About Diotrephes (Verses 9-11)

8. **Diotrephes "liked to put himself first" and refused to acknowledge authority.** Where do you see pride showing up in your own life? What are the warning signs that we're putting ourselves first?
9. **Pride leads to gossip, slander, and division.** Have you ever witnessed or participated in church conflict driven by pride? What was the result? How could humility have changed the situation?
10. **John says, "Don't imitate evil, but imitate good."** Who are you imitating in your walk with Christ? Are there any influences in your life pulling you away from humility?

About Demetrius (Verse 12)

11. **Demetrius was "well spoken of by everyone" and the truth itself testified about him.** What does it mean for the gospel to bear witness in someone's life? How is fruit evident in a Christ-follower?
12. **The sermon said: "He's a joy to be around because he's in love with Jesus."** Do people find joy in being around you because of your love for Christ? Why or why not?

Personal Application

13. **The sermon challenged us with this prayer:** "God, would You let us be rewarded with success and health when our clear aim is to know and love You? Would You cause us to miserably fail at anything that pulls us away from You?" How does this prayer make you feel? Would you be willing to pray it for yourself?

14. **Pastor Brian said: "If we're not willing to surrender our lives to Jesus, we might be wasting our time on Sunday mornings."** That's a strong statement. Do you agree? What does true surrender look like in everyday life?

15. **John confronted sin face-to-face, not from behind a pen.** Are there difficult conversations you've been avoiding? How can you address conflict or sin with courage and grace?

Practical Applications

Reflection Question

If someone wrote a letter about you (like John wrote about these four men), what would it say? What would you want it to say?