

3 JOHN

LOOK at the Text

1.5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

- **Who** are the main characters in this passage? List everything we learn about the individuals or groups.
 - The elder (the author, John)
 - Gaius
 - The brothers and sisters
 - Diotrephes
 - Demetrius
- **Who** are the brothers and sisters mentioned here? What do you think their role is in the church?
- **What** gives John great joy and 'no greater joy'?
- **What** should people's response be to the truth?
- **What** attitudes seem to motivate the actions of Gaius?
- **What** attitudes seem to motivate the actions of Diotrephes?
 - **What** danger is Diotrephes posing to the church? What could be the end result of this congregation if his actions are not corrected?
- **What** are the commands in this text?
- **What** words are repeated throughout these verses? When anyone repeats words or phrases they generally want you to pay attention to these ideas!
- In this letter, John is directly contrasting the actions of Gaius and Diotrephes.
 - **Why** is he commending Gaius?
 - **Why** is he critiquing Diotrephes?
- **Why** are the brothers and sisters 'going out' in this text? What does this mean?
 - **How** are these brothers and sisters different from those 'going out' in 2 John 7-11?
 - **How** is the church supposed to respond to those who 'go out' in 2 John?
 - **How** is the church supposed to respond to those who 'go out' in 3 John?
- **How** is John attempting to correct false teaching and wrong behaviour in this church? What steps has he taken? What steps will he take in the future?

Pulling this all together, then...

- **What** are the main ideas in this chapter? How would you summarize each section?
 - 3 John 1-4
 - 3 John 5-8
 - 3 John 9-10
 - 3 John 11-12
 - 3 John 13-15

2. LEARN from God's Word

Whole Bible Connections - Look up the following verses from other parts of scripture and note how they relate to 3 John. What do they affirm about what John is saying in this letter?

- Throughout John's letters, he refers to Christians as his children. The apostle Paul speaks of other believers in the same way. Read the following texts to see how Paul fleshes out this relationship. How does Paul view his role as a parent (in one text he talks about acting both as a mother and a father)? How should the Christians respond as his children?
 - 1 Corinthians 4:14-21
 - Galatians 4:12-20
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
 - Who have been your spiritual mothers and fathers? Spend some time thanking God for them today! If they are still alive, consider how you can thank them for their input into your life.
 - In 2 Timothy 1: 3-7, Paul also reminds Timothy to be grateful for his biological faith heritage.
 - How has your biological family impacted your faith journey? Spend some time thanking God for them today! If they are still alive, consider how you can thank them for their input into your life.
- In this letter John gives instructions on how Gaius can encourage those who "go out for the sake of the Name". He is speaking here from personal experience and is reflecting on the words of Jesus to his disciples. Read the following passages and note how Jesus instructed the disciples to respond to those who didn't show hospitality to them.
 - Matthew 10:1-15
 - Mark 6: 6b-12
 - Luke 9:1-6
- John's 3 epistles and the book of Revelation end with similar words as his gospel. Read 3 John 12, John 21:24 and Revelation 22:6-8. At the end of everything he has said, what does John want his readers to know?
 - How have you been impacted by learning the truth from John this year? How have his inspired words shaped your faith?

3. LIVE in light of the Text

- What is God saying to us in this passage about His purpose for our lives?
- How do the main ideas in this passage strengthen or challenge me to repent and change?
 - My Head - thoughts; beliefs; frameworks
 - My Heart - desires; emotions
 - My Hands - behaviours; deeds
- How should these main ideas influence and change my prayers?
 - Adoration - What can I praise and thank God for?
 - Confession - What do I need to repent of?
 - Supplication - What will I ask God for?