

GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION**To My Dear Friend****3 John***"Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good."* 3 John 11a**Day 1: Read 3 John 1–14.**

1. John greets Gaius as someone whom he "love[s] in truth." What do you think it means to not only love someone but to love in truth? How would many of our relationships be healthier and holier if we set these guardrails around them?
2. How many times does John use the words "truth" or "true" in this short letter? Why do you think he is emphasizing that?
3. In verse 2 how does John show that we ought to be concerned not only for people's souls, but for the whole person?
4. Find an example of "godly gossip" in verse 3. How can we practice godly gossip in our own lives? "Gossip" about someone's good deeds or qualities today.
5. John twice uses the phrase "walking in the truth" (vss. 3–4). In what way is that a more graphic and helpful phrase than merely saying that we must "obey" or "do right"?

Day 2: Read 3 John 1–8.

6. For what does John commend Gaius? (vs. 5)
7. Why is it even more commendable to show hospitality to strangers than to friends? (After thinking about it, consider also Lk. 6:34; 14:12–14.)
8. What amazing statement does Hebrews 13:2 make about people who "show hospitality to strangers"?

Day 3: Read 3 John 5–8.

9. John tells Gaius that when we show hospitality to strangers who are doing God’s business, we ourselves are doing God’s business and are “fellow workers for the truth” (vs. 8).
 - a. What kind of reward does Jesus say you can expect for doing such kindnesses to God’s laborers? (Matt. 10:40–42)

 - b. How can you be a “fellow worker” in missions, even without leaving your town? (vss. 5–8)

10. As you meditate on these teachings about welcoming and showing hospitality to strangers, make a plan for how you will greet visitors to your church on Sunday mornings.

Day 4: Read 3 John 9–14.

11. How is Diotrephes different from Gaius? Cite two ways. (vs. 9)

12. With what words does John characterize Diotrephes’ speech? (vs. 10) Think about your own manner of speech and whether it is more like Diotrephes’ “gossiping maliciously” (vs. 10) or Gaius’ “godly gossip.”

13. What are the only two manners of life you can imitate? (vs. 11)

14. How do you know when someone’s manner of life is from God? (vs. 11) From the devil? (vs. 11)

15. How do verses 13–14 show that Christian relationships are not just a matter of passing on doctrine but of warm and personal fellowship?

16. In an unusual ending for an epistle, John calls the believers “friends” (vs. 14). What do friends do for each other? Who was and is your best friend? (Jn. 15:13)

Day 5: Read 1, 2, and 3 John.

17. Write out a verse (or verses) that has *convicted* you as you have studied John’s letters.

18. Write out a verse (or verses) that has *encouraged* you as you have studied John’s letters.

19. Reflect back on your year of studying Daniel and John's letters. What has God taught you this year about Himself? What has He taught you about yourself? Would you be willing to share some of these thoughts next week?