

MASTER THE CONTENT OF SCRIPTURE



The Book of 3rd John

(Observe, Interpret, Apply & Go)

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THE BOOK OF 3RD JOHN

Observe, Interpret & Apply

In our studies of the Bible, we will be using an inductive approach. This approach is a fun and exciting way to study the Bible! It's like being a detective. Instead of starting with a conclusion, you look at the details and clues in the text to discover the meaning for yourself.

Here's how you can do it:

1. **Observation:** First, you look closely at the Bible passage. You pay attention to:
 - a. Who is in the story
 - b. What is happening
 - c. Where it is taking place
 - d. When it is happening
 - e. Why things are happening
 - f. How they are happening.You write down or make a mental note of all the details you notice.
2. **Interpretation:** Next, you try to understand what those details mean.
 - a. You think about why the characters did what they did
 - b. You think about what the important words and phrases mean.
 - c. You may need to look up some words or ask questions to understand better.
3. **Application:** Finally, you think about how the story applies to our lives. What truth does it communicate?
 - a. What does it teach us about God?
 - b. What does it teach us about ourselves?
 - c. What action (s) does it call us to take?

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CHAPTER ONE

Summary of Chapter

3 John is a brief letter from the Apostle John to a man named Gaius. John commends Gaius for his faithfulness and hospitality towards fellow believers and warns against Diotrephes, who refuses to welcome others and spreads malicious gossip. John also mentions Demetrius, who has a good testimony and is deserving of support. The letter highlights the importance of supporting true teachers of the faith and maintaining good character within the Christian community.

Opening Question

How do you decide whether to trust someone in a leadership role?

Outline

1. Commendation of Gaius (3 John 1-8)

- John praises Gaius for his faithfulness and generosity toward traveling missionaries.
- Application Question: How can we demonstrate hospitality and support to those in need today?

2. Warning Against Diotrephes (3 John 9-10)

- John criticizes Diotrephes for his arrogance and refusal to accept others.
- Application Question: What are some signs of unhealthy leadership in a community or organization?

3. Commendation of Demetrius (3 John 11-12)

- John endorses Demetrius as a person of good character and a model for others.

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- Application Question: What qualities should we look for in leaders and role models?

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

- Memorize and recite 3 John 1:5: "Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you."

2. Role Playing Activity

- Divide students into groups and role-play scenarios where they must decide how to support a new visitor to their church or community, showing hospitality and kindness.

3. Discussion Activity

- Discuss the traits of good and bad leaders as described in the letter. How can these traits be applied to current situations in their own lives?
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Quiz

1. What is the main theme of 3 John?

- a) Leadership
- b) Hospitality
- c) Faithfulness
- d) Gossip

2. Who is praised for their hospitality in 3 John?

- a) Diotrephes
- b) Demetrius
- c) Gaius
- d) John

3. What negative behavior does John address in the letter?

- a) Lack of faith

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- b) Gossip and arrogance
 - c) Financial issues
 - d) Physical health
4. Who is criticized for refusing to welcome others?
- a) Gaius
 - b) Demetrius
 - c) John
 - d) Diotrephes
5. What is Demetrius's reputation according to John?
- a) Poor
 - b) Neutral
 - c) Good
 - d) Bad
6. What action does John encourage towards true teachers of the faith?
- a) Ignore them
 - b) Support them
 - c) Criticize them
 - d) Avoid them
7. What does John commend Gaius for doing?
- a) Spreading rumors
 - b) Supporting missionaries
 - c) Ignoring newcomers
 - d) Criticizing leaders
8. How does John describe Diotrephes's behavior?
- a) Humble
 - b) Welcoming
 - c) Selfish
 - d) Generous
9. What should believers look for in their leaders according to 3 John?
- a) Wealth

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- b) Power
- c) Good character
- d) Popularity

10. What is the relationship between Gaius and the people he supports?

- a) They are strangers
- b) They are family
- c) They are friends
- d) They are rivals

Answers: 1. b 2. c 3. b 4. d 5. c 6. b 7. b 8. c 9. c 10. a

Fill in the Blank

1. John writes to Gaius, praising him for his _____ towards traveling missionaries. (hospitality)
2. Diotrephes is criticized for _____ others and spreading gossip. (rejecting)
3. Demetrius is noted for having a _____ testimony. (good)
4. John advises that supporting true teachers of the faith is _____. (important)
5. Gaius is commended for his faithfulness in doing good even to _____ people. (unknown)

Answers: 1. hospitality 2. rejecting 3. good 4. important 5. unknown

Vocabulary Words

1. **Hospitality** – The friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers. Greek: φιλοξενία (philoxenia).
2. **Arrogance** – An attitude of superiority manifested in an overbearing manner. Greek: ὑπερηφάνεια (hyperphania).

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3. **Testimony** – Evidence or proof provided by the existence or appearance of something. Greek: μαρτυρία (martyria).
4. **Commend** – To praise formally or officially. Greek: συνιστάω (synistao).