

BIG IDEAS FROM LITTLE BOOKS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DISCUSSION GOAL



Discuss what it looks like to advance the gospel. Discuss what it looks like to imitate those worthy of imitation. Discuss how every Christian has a role to play in the advancement of the gospel.

ICE BREAKER



Think of a time when someone showed you great hospitality. Share about that moment and what made it special!

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

3 John

¹ The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. ² Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. ³ For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. ⁵ Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, ⁶ who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. ⁷ For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸ Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. ⁹ I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. ¹⁰ So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church. ¹¹ Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. ¹² Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true. ¹³ I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink. ¹⁴ I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. ¹⁵ Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, each by name.

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: God is pleased with those who advance the gospel.

Key Question: What does gospel advance look like for everyday people?

1. Support those who labor for the gospel. (vv. 5-8)
2. Warn those who discourage others from the gospel. (vv. 9-10)
3. Imitate those who honor the gospel. (vv. 11-15)

DISCUSSION



- The theme of 3 John is steadfastness despite opposition. Where do you see opposition to the gospel today? How does John 16:33 speak to this reality of gospel opposition?
- Read 3 John 5-8. What does it mean to labor for the gospel? What does it look like when the gospel is advanced? How can we support those who labor for the gospel?
- 3 John 9-10 warns those who discourage others from the gospel. How does the text describe Diotrephes? What discourages or hinders you from being engaged in the work of gospel advancement?
- Have someone read 3 John 11 and then 1 Corinthians 11:1. Who have you seen live a life of faithful gospel witness and testimony? How can you imitate their life and actions to advance the gospel?
- John wrote this letter to Gaius to encourage him in his role in gospel advancement. How do you need to be encouraged to play your role in this mission? How can you encourage other in this mission?

LIFE APPLICATION



Every Christian is called to gospel advancement! Are there preferences or “me-first” attitudes that we might carry that are hindering or distracting the church from the work of gospel advance? What are ways we can engage in gospel advancement this week?

jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS


