






# Walking in Fellowship and Truth: A Study on 3 John



Explore the themes of hospitality, truth, and Christian fellowship through an in-depth study of the book of 3 John.

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## Introduction

**The book of 3 John** is a brief yet profoundly impactful letter written by the Apostle John. It addresses themes of fellowship, hospitality, truth, and support for those spreading the gospel. Though only one chapter long, this epistle contains rich lessons for believers seeking to live faithfully and honor God's truth within their communities.

In this study, we will examine the key insights from 3 John, focusing on how Christian love expresses itself through practical encouragement and hospitality. John commends Gaius for walking in truth and supporting traveling missionaries, while cautioning against the disruptive influence of Diotrephes, who rejected apostolic authority and refused to welcome fellow believers.

This letter reminds us that the Christian life is lived out not merely in private devotion but in visible acts of kindness, humility, and faithfulness. It challenges us to consider how we encourage others in the faith, protect the integrity of the Church, and stand firm in the truth. As we study this epistle, may we be inspired to deepen our fellowship and bear witness to God's love in tangible ways.


*Join us in this three-day study that will illuminate the vital role of truth and hospitality in the Christian journey.*  





## Day 1: Walking in Truth and Love



Day 1:  Walking in Truth and Love


## Your Verse

*3 John 1:1-4 "The elder, To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *John 13:34 - "A new command I give you: Love one another."*
- *1 John 3:18 - "Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."*



Day 1:  Walking in Truth and Love

## Devotional: The Power of Loving in Truth

**3 John opens** with John's warm greeting to Gaius, commending him for his faithful walk 'in the truth.' This phrase highlights the inseparable connection between truth and love in the Christian life. John's affection for Gaius is rooted in shared commitment to God's word and living it out authentically.

Walking in truth means embracing the gospel wholeheartedly, rejecting falsehood, and embodying God's commands. But it is not a cold or distant truth; it is alive and expressed through genuine love. The early church faced many challenges, including doctrinal disputes and social pressures, yet believers like Gaius stood firm, supporting those who spread the Good News.

**John's joy** in seeing Gaius walking faithfully reminds us that our actions in truth bring encouragement to others. How often do our lives reflect such integrity? Are we nurturing relationships grounded in God's truth and love? Today, consider how your faith invites deeper connection and steadfastness.



## Reflect and Apply

1. What does 'walking in truth' look like in your daily life?

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2. How does love complement truth in your relationships?

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3. In what ways have you encouraged others by living out your faith authentically?

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Day 1:  Walking in Truth and Love

## Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time you experienced encouragement from someone walking in truth.

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2. Reflect on any challenges you face in living your faith openly and honestly.

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3. List practical ways you can love others with truth this week.


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Day 1:  Walking in Truth and Love

## Prayer for Today

**Lord, help me to walk in Your truth and love each day.** Strengthen my heart to live faithfully and encourage others in their walk. May my love be genuine, rooted in Your word, and visible to all. Teach me to embody the gospel in my actions and words. Guide me to support and uplift those who serve Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, AMEN.   





## Day 2: 🤝 Embracing Hospitality and Support



Day 2: 🧡 Embracing Hospitality and Support

## Your Verse

*3 John 1:5-8 "Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters..."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Hebrews 13:2 - "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers."*
- *Matthew 25:40 - "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*



## Day 2: 🧡 Embracing Hospitality and Support

## Devotional: Hospitality as a Reflection of God's Love

**John praises Gaius** for his ongoing support of traveling Christian workers, demonstrating how hospitality is a vital aspect of faith in action. Helping fellow believers in ministry requires generosity, sacrifice, and a heart aligned with God's mission.

In the early church, hospitality was more than social nicety; it was a spiritual duty that supported the spread of the gospel. Welcoming strangers and offering them practical help reflected Jesus' own love and compassion. This tradition continues today and challenges us to consider how we participate.

**Hospitality builds community** and fosters unity in the body of Christ. When we open our homes, resources, and hearts, we mirror God's welcoming nature and empower those serving Him. Reflect on how your life welcomes others and what barriers might prevent openness.

Serving and supporting others is a tangible expression of faith that blesses both giver and receiver.



Day 2: 🧡 Embracing Hospitality and Support

## Reflect and Apply

1. How do you currently practice hospitality in your life?

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2. What barriers hinder you from supporting fellow believers?

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3. How can hospitality deepen your spiritual community and testimony?

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Day 2: 🧡 Embracing Hospitality and Support

# Journaling Prompts

1. Recall a moment when hospitality impacted your faith journey.

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2. Brainstorm ways to offer practical support to those serving in ministry.

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3. Commit to one specific act of hospitality you can do this week.

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Day 2: 🧡 Embracing Hospitality and Support

## Prayer for Today

**Father, teach me to be generous and welcoming,** reflecting Your love through hospitality. Open my heart to support those serving in Your name. Remove any fears or prejudices that limit my willingness to serve. Make me a vessel of encouragement and blessing to others. In Jesus' name, AMEN. 😊 🏠 ❤️





## Day 3: ⚠ Guarding Truth and Rejecting Discord





Day 3: ⚠ Guarding Truth and Rejecting Discord

## Your Verse

*3 John 1:9-12 "I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes..."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *2 Timothy 2:24-26 - "The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone."*
- *Titus 3:10 - "Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them."*



## Day 3: ⚠ Guarding Truth and Rejecting Discord

## Devotional: Standing Firm Against Discord

**John warns** about Diotrephes, who refused to welcome the brethren and spread malicious words against John, acting selfishly and disrupting fellowship. This reminds believers that not all opposition is external; sometimes conflict comes from within the church itself.

Guarding the truth involves discernment and courage to confront or avoid those who hinder unity and oppose godly leadership. It requires balancing grace with firmness to protect the church's witness.

**Disunity damages the body** and can steal the joy of fellowship. John's example teaches us to prioritize truth and love but also to be wise, standing against those who cause division.

Reflect on how you respond to conflict in your faith community and whether you promote peace and truth or inadvertently contribute to discord.



Day 3: ⚠ Guarding Truth and Rejecting Discord

## Reflect and Apply

1. How do you typically handle conflict in your church or fellowship?

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2. What can you learn from John's approach to dealing with Diotrephes?

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3. How can you promote unity and truth in difficult situations?

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Day 3: ⚠ Guarding Truth and Rejecting Discord

# Journaling Prompts

1. Describe a time you witnessed or experienced division in a faith community.

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2. Reflect on ways to balance grace and truth when facing opposition.

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3. Write a prayer or commitment to foster peace and protect fellowship.

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Day 3: ⚠️ Guarding Truth and Rejecting Discord

## Prayer for Today

**Lord, give me wisdom and strength** to guard Your truth and maintain unity in the church. Help me to confront discord kindly and effectively, promoting peace with humility. Shield me from divisive attitudes and empower me to be a peacemaker. In Jesus' name, Amen. ✚️🙌🙏





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