
Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.org/iii-john-1-8
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

3 John 1-8

3 John 1–8

[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.

Sermon Outline

- I. Introduction to the book (1-4)
- II. Five principles for missions (5-8)

Life Group Leader Notes:



Weekly Discussion Guide

- As we begin a new study, it might be helpful to have everyone share their experiences with 3 John. Has this letter made an impact on your walk with Christ? Are there any verses that stick out? What do you hope to learn? What was your main takeaway from this week's sermon?
- Pastor Scott mentioned that John was most likely well into his 80s when he penned this letter. What does this teach us about retirement from Christian ministry? What are your dreams/plans for your own retirement? How did this comment challenge your perspective?
- John prayed for Gaius to prosper physically & spiritually (verse 3). We learn from this text that it is good and appropriate for us to pray for the physical and material flourishing of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Have you spent time praying for the physical flourishing of the members of your life group? Perhaps you could make it a goal this week.
- In the next verse, however, John found his **greatest joy** in the knowledge that his children were *walking in the truth* (verse 4). The goal of the gospel is not physical well being, but the forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God. Have you spent time praying for this (and rejoicing in this) with the members of your life group? We pray for health & prosperity *for the good of the gospel*. When we thrive, we have more resources for hospitality.
- In verses 5-8, Pastor Scott outlined five principles for Christian missions:
 - Show hospitality to missionaries, even if they are strangers.
 - Care for their needs, not just when present, but after they go.
 - Send them as they work for the sake of the Name.
 - Support such missionaries.
 - By supporting mission work, we become fellow workers with the truth. Some send, others go.Which areas can your life group immediately apply? Here is a link to the work that the C&MA is doing in missions. <https://www.cmalliance.org/ministries/>. Libby Dowell (ldowell@abfboone.org) can help answer questions about mission's giving at ABF. Rich Green (richardvolunteer1953@gmail.com) is the chair of the mission's committee.
- Pastor Scott ended the sermon with a powerful quote from Dr. Karen Jobes on the nature of hospitality. What can your life group learn from John's teaching on hospitality? *"3 John also invites us to reconsider what we mean by hospitality. Hospitality, in whatever form it takes today, should not be offered only to our friends in the Lord, but even to strangers whose faith in Christ & work for the gospel our Christian leaders have validated. The Christian church is not to be a social club of cliques. The church is composed of all who have come to faith in Jesus Christ, regardless of their race, ethnicity, social position, or economic standing. Wherever & whenever those engaged in the work of the gospel have need of life-sustaining provisions in order to continue their work, they should be able to count on the generosity of their fellow Christians, who will send them on their way "in a manner worthy of God." Generously supporting those sent out in the name of Christ is not primarily a tax deduction, it is a spiritual work that enables one to participate in the work of the gospel."* -Karen Jobes

