GENESIS TO REVELATION | LETTER LESSON

A Warm Welcome for Traveling Friends

3 John 1:1-12



YOUR BIBLE READING

Faithful hospitality and good examples help a community share in truthful service.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

Gaius and a Faithful Welcome

3 John 1:1-12



Third John is a letter addressed by the elder to Gaius, whom he loves in truth. The writer wishes him well and prays for his health. This is a prayer of care, not a promise that everyone with strong faith will always be healthy or wealthy. The opening gives a personal setting to the instructions that follow: someone known and loved is being encouraged in the way he supports other believers.

Traveling brothers had reported that Gaius was walking in truth. The elder rejoiced at their testimony. Walking describes the direction of a life, not a particular road they had watched him take. The writer says that hearing of his children living faithfully brings great joy. Here children can describe people under his spiritual care; we should not invent a list of his biological children or a family scene beyond the letter.

Gaius had acted faithfully in what he did for fellow believers, including people who had been strangers to him. They had spoken of his love before the gathered community. The elder encourages him to continue supporting their journey in a way worthy of God. The letter does not name every meal, room, or object he provided. It records the important thing: his welcome had become practical care recognized by the travelers.

These workers had set out for the sake of Jesus' name without taking support from the people outside the faith to whom they went. The community was therefore encouraged to receive them and become fellow workers for the truth. Supporting a journey could take part in the work even when the helper did not make the same trip. The letter honors this quieter contribution as part of a shared responsibility.

Remember: Choose the example that makes room for truthful, practical care.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Choose a Good Example, Not a Struggle for First Place

3 John 1:1-12



The letter also names a troubling contrast. Diotrephes loved to be first and did not accept the elder's message. He was spreading harmful accusations, refusing to welcome the traveling believers, and stopping those who wished to receive them. He even expelled such people from the community. These are actions the letter reports, not a reason to invent a secret history explaining everything Diotrephes had ever thought or done.

The elder says that if he comes, he will call attention to this behavior. That is a planned response, not a report that the visit has already happened. The problem was not simply a difference in personality between two people. The conduct was harming the community's ability to welcome and support others. A desire for first place had become a way to control who was allowed to offer care.

Gaius is urged not to imitate evil but to imitate good. The letter then mentions Demetrius, who has a good testimony from everyone and from the truth itself. The writer adds his own testimony. The passage does not specify every task Demetrius performed or tell us with certainty that he carried this letter. What it supplies is a contrast between conduct that damages welcome and a reputation supported by faithful testimony.

The lesson therefore asks readers to consider what kind of example they follow. An important position or a strong demand to be first does not make behavior good. Gaius's welcome, the travelers' work, and the good testimony about Demetrius point toward shared service. Diotrephes's harmful control points in another direction. The letter encourages care that cooperates in the truth rather than turning leadership into a way to shut out other people's faithful help.

Pause and think: What actions would help you recognize a leader or example who makes room for others to contribute?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Notice What an Example Actually Does



A person who insists on being first may still need to learn how to treat others. In an ordinary group activity, you can look beyond who gives the loudest instructions. Do they listen? Do they let others contribute? Do they help the group act fairly? These present-day questions can help you recognize an example worth following without inventing new events about the people in the letter.

Gaius's care helped travelers, but children should not manage unknown visitors alone. An adult is responsible for deciding how a family or community offers safe hospitality. You can help with an agreed task or a suitable greeting. A genuine welcome respects boundaries and safety; it does not ask you to ignore discomfort or keep a visitor's request secret from responsible people.

The letter values truthful testimony, not careless rumors. Before repeating something harmful about a person, ask an adult how to handle what you actually know. If someone is being mistreated, speaking to the right person can help protect them. Good care joins accurate words with practical support, rather than using accusations to gain attention or control a group.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Third John encourages a faithful welcome and good examples instead of harmful demands for first place.

What actions would help you recognize a leader or example who makes room for others to contribute?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What did the travelers report about Gaius?

2. What example is Gaius urged to imitate?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ He urges imitation of good and notes the testimony about Demetrius.
- ☐ He contrasts that care with Diotrephes's harmful control.
- ☐ The elder rejoices in Gaius's faithful welcome of traveling believers.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw a safe, adult-guided welcome where several people contribute suitable help.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

Choose the example that makes room for truthful, practical care.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: 3 John 1:5-8,11-12

A thoughtful conversation

The letter reports Gaius's hospitality and Diotrephes's harmful conduct; do not invent a later visit, reconciliation, or punishment. Health is prayed for, not guaranteed as a reward for faith. Demetrius receives good testimony without a specified travel role. Children need adult oversight around visitors, and reporting harm truthfully must be distinguished from repeating gossip or controlling others.

Activity answers

1. His conduct was faithful and his welcome showed practical love.
2. What is good, rather than harmful behavior or a demand to be first.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 2, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, help us welcome wisely, speak truthfully, and follow examples of generous care. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on 3 John 1:1-12. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration: original symbolic vector artwork by DigiPick.store; a learning aid, not an additional Bible event.
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