



**Growth Group Questions**  
**February 15, 2026**  
**“Hospitality Is Key”**

**CONTEXT**

The third letter of John reads more like an encouragement to the community. John, the elder, is traditionally thought to be the Apostle John and also the author of the Gospel of John. He writes this letter to show the contrast between being someone who is living out their faith through showing hospitality versus being someone who is rebellious and not helping the cause.

It is important for us to remember that this is dangerous times to be a Christian. The Romans and the Jewish leaders are all out to put out the momentum of Christianity by any means necessary. So, taking care of evangelists and teachers is very important. There are three themes discussed in this small book of the Bible. The first is showing hospitality as a ministry. This was essential in spreading the Gospel. The second was to walk in the truth. John shows that evidence of faith is shown when people actually walk in the truth and help the cause of spreading the Gospel. And third, John, the elder, brings up conflict between people who refuse to show hospitality and support the people who are appointed by the leadership of the early Christians. Toxic leadership does not show evidence of someone who is living in the truth.

John points out Gaius as someone who is doing a great job of hospitality while Diotrephes is not. He is rebuked for his pride and rebellion to the Elder’s authority. Diotrephes prevents ministry from happening through his insecurity. In this short document, we also see Demetrius who is likely the courier of the letter and someone who is held in high esteem. John, the elder, seems to deliberately send Demetrius as an example and as an authority to fix the issues on hand.

**SCRIPTURE**

**3 John 1-8**

<sup>1</sup> This letter is from John, the elder. I am writing to Gaius, my dear friend, whom I love in the truth.

<sup>2</sup> Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit. <sup>3</sup> Some of the traveling teachers<sup>[b]</sup> recently returned and made me very happy by telling me

about your faithfulness and that you are living according to the truth. <sup>4</sup> I could have no greater joy than to hear that my children are following the truth.

<sup>5</sup> Dear friend, you are being faithful to God when you care for the traveling teachers who pass through, even though they are strangers to you. <sup>6</sup> They have told the church here of your loving friendship. Please continue providing for such teachers in a manner that pleases God. <sup>7</sup> For they are traveling for the Lord,<sup>[c]</sup> and they accept nothing from people who are not believers.<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>8</sup> So we ourselves should support them so that we can be their partners as they teach the truth.

### **Matthew 25:35-40**

<sup>35</sup> For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. <sup>36</sup> I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup> “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? <sup>39</sup> When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ <sup>40</sup> “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> you were doing it to me!’

### **2 Corinthians 4:7-12**

<sup>7</sup> We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure.<sup>[a]</sup> This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. <sup>8</sup> We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. <sup>9</sup> We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. <sup>11</sup> Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. <sup>12</sup> So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. How do you define hospitality?
2. It has been said that one definition of “hospitality” is “alongsidedness.” If this is true, what does that say to you about hospitality?
3. Do you think there is a difference between hospitality and entertaining? If so, what is the difference? If not, why not?
4. Describe an experience you’ve had of outstanding hospitality, whether in someone’s home or another environment. How did you feel and what made this a particularly hospitable experience?
5. Why is hospitality such an important quality for Christians to possess?

6. Think about the Bible stories you know where people practiced Christian hospitality. Select one of these stories and share it with the group being sure to explain what you think was special about the hospitality shown.
7. What do you think is the key to good Christian hospitality?
8. In what tangible ways can you practice hospitality this week?
9. We have just spent several weeks studying the letters of John. As you look back over our study of 1, 2, and 3 John, what are the key lessons you have learned?