

LESSON 1

OPEN HOMES

3 JOHN



1 What makes you feel welcome and comfortable in someone's home?



Read the introduction to 3 John, the book of 3 John, and the following notes:

☐ 1:1 ☐ 1:5 ☐ 1:7 ☐ 1:7, 8 ☐ 1:9, 10 ☐ 1:12 ☐ 1:14

2 Describe each of the people mentioned in this letter:

Gaius (1:1–8) _____

Diotrephes (1:9, 10) _____

Demetrius (1:12) _____

3 In John's day, how did Christians show hospitality to traveling teachers?

In the days of the early church, those who made a living meeting the spiritual needs of God's people depended on their generosity. How did Christians give support? Hospitality—housing and feeding the traveling teachers during their stay. In many ways, hospitality has become a lost art in our day. Some people may be afraid of having their house messed up, some don't want the inconvenience, and some may just not want to take the time. For whatever reason, many people have closed their homes to visitors. But part of showing Christ's love to others is to be hospitable—to share what we have with those in need.



4 Many people feel uneasy about offering hospitality. What reasons have you heard people give for not opening up their homes to others?

5 What does having an open home achieve?

6 What barriers hold you back from being hospitable?



7 What are some creative ways you can show hospitality?

8 Who could benefit from your hospitality?



9 John wrote, “Dear friend, you are doing a good work for God when you take care of the traveling teachers” (1:5). What act of hospitality could you perform this week?

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- A** How was Diotrephes a danger to the church (1:9, 10)? What examples of this have you seen in the church today? What steps should be taken against people like Diotrephes?
- B** Why were Gaius and Demetrius commended by John (1:1–8, 12)? Whom would you commend for similar reasons?