

# Discussion Guide

questions to help start or continue conversations about faith

*Discussion Guides accompany the weekly message.*

## Linus on the Hope in the Truth

A Peanuts cartoon pictured Lucy and Linus looking out the window at a steady downpour of rain. "Boy," said Lucy, "look at it rain. What if it floods the whole world?"

"It will never do that," Linus replied confidently. "In the ninth chapter of Genesis, God promised Noah that would never happen again, and the sign of the promise is the rainbow."

"You've taken a great load off my mind," said Lucy with a relieved smile.

"Sound theology," pontificated Linus, "has a way of doing that."

**Can you remember a time when truth made you smile, or brought you joy?**

**Passage: Read 3 John**

**Observation (look at the text):**

- v. 1-4 What gives John no greater joy?
- v. 5-7 What instruction does John give regarding the "strangers" (NIV) or "traveling teachers" (NLT) of the Truth?
- v. 8 Why should we follow John's instructions concerning these teachers and traveling teachers?
- v. 9-10 What is Diotrephes doing that is hurting the church?
- v. 11-12 What instruction is given about good and evil?
- v. 13-14 What themes do you observe as John closes the letter?

**Interpretation (Understand what it means)**

- v. 1-4 Why does John have great joy to know his children (his disciples) are walking in the Truth? (Read John 15:1-12 for context in the words of Jesus.)

- v. 5-7 What name do we give to traveling teachers today?
- v.9-12 Why do you think John warns Gaius about Diotrephes, and speaks well of Demetrius?

**Application (Apply the Word of God to life):**

- v. 1-4 The world we live in often speaks about your truth, your happiness, and living your best life. According to the book of 3 John, what source of joy is greater than all these things? Are you living your best life centered in the Truth? What must you do to seek Truth? What must you do to continue in Truth?
- v.5-8 White River Christian Church is a sending church and we support missionaries around the Lord. How can your small group work together with these “strangers” and “traveling teachers” in the Truth? If you are not in a small group, how can you join in the work of the Truth?
- v.9-12 In verse 11, we are instructed to imitate what is good, and to do good. Is there anyone like Diotrephes in your life, who you are tempted to imitate? Is there anyone like Demetrius in your life, who inspires you to imitate and do what is good? In John 15:1-12, Jesus gives us the illustration of the vine and the branches. What is the key to doing what is good?