



### **A. Examining the texts.**

1. Read 3<sup>rd</sup> John 1-8. To whom is John writing and what about him does John the apostle commend? Why do you think that hospitality is so important in the first century church?
2. Read 3<sup>rd</sup> John 9-10. Who does John refer to in these verses and what is wrong with him? What is his chief issue?
3. Read 3<sup>rd</sup> John 11-14. What does John say about imitation here? What kinds of people are worthy of imitation? What do you think John means when he says- Demetrius is well spoken of, by the truth itself?"

### **B. Meditation & application**

4. On the basis of this letter what would you see as the main motivation for mission in the church? (Verse 6 especially) Is this motivation something that you connect with- if not- how could you fan it into flame?
5. John talks about some pretty tough conversations that he is going to have with Diotrephes and his church. How does his example speak to us about when it might be appropriate to "deal strongly," with someone? What principles could we learn from John and what does this reveal about John's concerns? (NB: Maybe being a Christian is not just about "being nice.")
6. Do you think that there is anyone who you imitate in your life? Do you think this person or persons are helpful role models? What does this letter teach us about role models? Is it ok to have them- and if it is; how ought we to choose them?
7. How could you become a person worthy of imitation for the sake of the Name? What character flaws could keep you from contributing to the mission? What would John say to you and how could you become less like Diotrephes and more like Gaius or Demetrius?

Dear heavenly Father, Thank you that you sent your Son and thank you that you crowned him with glory and honor. Help us to be followers of Christ bent on the glory of his Name. Empower us, by your Spirit to be a witness to him. For Jesus sake- Amen.