



Big Photo:

Shaun and Krista Trump—Kenya and Tanzania

1

III John

- Author
- Recipients
- Date Written
- Purpose
- Key Chapter
- Key Verse
- 6 TCFs

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3

III John

Epistle of

4

III John

Epistle of Caring
for Missionaries

5

Martin Story: Dora the
Explorer Explains Trick-or-
Treating



6

Author:

👤 “The elder”
1:1

👤 Clearly, John
the apostle

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Who was John?

- 👤 Again, wrote the Gospel of John, aka “John”
- 👤 Son of Zebedee; one of the 12 apostles “the disciple whom Jesus loved”--John 19:26 et al
- 👤 Close personal friend of Jesus; transfiguration, Gethsemane, the cross--mother--son 19:26-27

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Date Written:

- A. He's old
- B. Written after the Gospel
- C. Combats gnosticism
- So, much later than Paul's letters--
- About the same time as I John and II John

So, 90 AD?

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Recipients:

- 1:1
- "To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth"
- Gaius--a member of one of the churches in Asia Minor

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Purpose:

- John praises his friend Gaius for supporting "brothers"--Christian missionaries sent out by John

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Key Verse:

- 1: 5
- "Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are..."ESV

12

Key Chapter
(Required Reading):

1

There's only 1!

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TCF #1

Even in this short letter,
you can tell that it's
John's:

v1 "love in the truth" (II
John 1)

v4 "walking in the
truth" (see II John 6)

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TCF #2

V5-10 John is sending out
"brothers"--missionaries --v12
Demetrius might be the leader of
this mission group

Gaius is treating them well, so
John writes this letter of thanks

V8: "Therefore we ought to support
people like these, that we may be
fellow workers for the truth"ESV

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TCF #3

Diotrephes

V9-10: "I have written something to the
church but Diotrephes, who likes to put
himself first, does not acknowledge our
authority...talking wicked nonsense...refuses to
welcome the brothers...stops those..."ESV

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TCF #4

• God's Grace in III John:

1. The Gospel must be spread far and wide, and here missionaries are spreading it.
2. Each Christian should do as Gaius did: receive missionaries and help them on their way (vs. II John, don't support FALSE missionaries)

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TCF #5

• Luther: "The other two epistles (of John) are not doctrinal epistles, but examples of love and faith. They have a true apostolic spirit". (LW 35:393)

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TCF #6

- It's really short:
- Recommendation: Read the whole letter

19

Activity to Remember

Crossword Puzzle

20

Life Lessons from 3rd John:

- “In the third letter [John] gives guidance for Christian life in the congregation”--ITBOTB
- 8: “We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men...”
- What do you do to support the Christian Church? What more could you do as you grow into a Christian man or woman?

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Required Reading:

- Chapter One

22
