

Gather Handout for 1,2,3 John

Below is a synopsis by ChatGTP:

1st John is a letter written by the apostle John. It is often considered a pastoral epistle or an exhortation to a group of early Christian believers. The letter emphasizes the importance of love, both love for God and love for one another. It addresses the themes of light and darkness, truth and error, and the assurance of salvation. John encourages believers to walk in the light, confess their sins, and remain in fellowship with God and fellow believers.

2nd John is a very short letter also written by the apostle John. It is addressed to a specific "elect lady" and her children, likely symbolic language for a local church and its members. In this letter, John emphasizes the importance of love and truth, warning against false teachers who deny the incarnation of Jesus Christ. He instructs the recipients to be discerning and not to support or welcome those who bring false teachings.

3rd John is another short letter written by the apostle John. It is addressed to Gaius, a commendable and faithful believer, and it also mentions Diotrephes, who opposes John's authority and refuses to welcome traveling missionaries and teachers. The letter highlights the importance of supporting those who carry out God's work faithfully and criticizes those who hinder their efforts. It encourages hospitality and cooperation with fellow believers in spreading the Gospel.

Verses about Fellowship from 1 John

1 John 1:7 (NIV): "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

1 John 3:11 (NIV): "For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another."

1 John 4:7-8 (NIV): "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

1 John 1:3 (NIV): "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ."

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you practice hospitality in your life? Can you share a story where you either extended or received Christian hospitality?
2. How does your personal fellowship with other Christians strengthen your faith? Can you share a time when this fellowship had a significant impact on your spiritual journey?
3. What does active belonging in God's family look like in your own life?
4. How do you support those in ministry or missionaries? Share ideas or experiences of how you have been involved in this kind of support.
5. Which teaching from 1, 2, or 3 John resonates with you the most? Why?