

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

3 JOHN SERIES

These questions are for the **September 17, 2017** sermon, "Strangers as they are." Please read the sermon passage (3 John 5-8) together out loud.

SERMON OUTLINE

PROVIDING BIBLICAL HOSPITALITY TO TRAVELING CHRISTIAN WORKERS INCLUDES . . .

1. Receiving them graciously, and then sending them worthily (5-6)
 - a. "Hospitality" come from the idea, "a love for strangers."
 - b. Jesus was often engaging in conversation with strangers, and he taught John to do so.
 - c. Doing faithful things in a faithless culture may go unnoticed, but the effects will be seen and felt.
 - d. Your house is a place of ministry, 24/7. (Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:9)
 - e. Hospitality is not about your house, it's about your heart.
2. Refreshing them holistically, and when needed, supporting them appropriately (7-8)
 - a. Christians serve others for the sake of the name.
 - i. There was no room for Jesus at the inn.
 - ii. Note that Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us.
 - b. Great stories of impact begin in little platoons of grace and kindness.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The concept of hospitality requires an active love for strangers. Is your life characterized by a love for strangers? How do you show that from your home? How do you show that in the neighborhood? How do you show it when the church is gathered?
2. Based on #1, above: Oftentimes, it seems as though your small acts of faithfulness towards strangers goes unrewarded, underappreciated and can sometimes even feel unfruitful. Yet "all" your efforts of faithfulness are for Christ, and that is enough. Have you ever felt like you were simply not making a difference? How has your own life been impacted by a simple act of someone, whom you didn't know, showing you love and kindness?
3. Based on #1, above: Read the three verses (above, 1. d.). What do these verses teach you about hospitality? Respond to this statement: "Hospitality is not about your house, it's about your heart." How does HGTV help with this? How does it hurt?
4. Based on #2, above: This world was cruel to Jesus. Yet he showed hospitality toward his mother (from the cross, when he asked John to take care of her), and to all of his followers when went to heaven in order to "prepare a place" for us. You can show a love for strangers even when strangers do not show a love for you. Discuss.
5. Based on #2, above: "Entertainment is a cultural activity, but hospitality is a biblical responsibility." Discuss the difference between entertaining and hospitality. What are some practical ideas to moving your interaction with others from entertaining to hospitality?