DAY 1: WALKING IN TRUTH

DEVOTIONAL

Truth matters. In our world of shifting opinions and relative values, the Bible calls us to something more solid—walking in the truth. In 3 John, we see Gaius commended for exactly this. His commitment to truth wasn't just intellectual agreement; it was evident in how he lived his life. Walking in truth means aligning our beliefs, words, and actions with God's Word. It means being the same person in private as we are in public. It means making choices based on what God says rather than what culture promotes. What's remarkable about Gaius is that his spiritual health was evident to others. John rejoiced to hear that Gaius was walking in truth. His faith wasn't hidden or compartmentalized—it was visible and consistent. People knew where he stood. Today, consider how your life reflects the truth you believe. Are there areas where your actions contradict your professed beliefs? Are there places where compromise has crept in? Walking in truth isn't about perfection, but about direction—consistently moving toward greater alignment with God's Word.

BIBLE VERSE

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." - 3 John 4

REFLECTION QUESTION

What specific area of your life might need realignment with God's truth today?

QUOTE

John wants us to know the truth, John wants us to believe the truth. John wants us to stand for truth, and he wants us to live the truth.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for Your truth that guides and grounds me. Reveal any areas where I've drifted from walking in Your truth. Give me courage to align my entire life—my thoughts, words, and actions—with what You've revealed in Your Word. Help me to be a person of integrity who brings You joy by walking faithfully in Your truth. Amen.

NOTES

DAY 2: THE POWER OF HOSPITALITY

DEVOTIONAL

Hospitality might seem like a small thing—opening our homes, sharing a meal, offering support. Yet in 3 John, we see that this simple act carries profound spiritual significance. Gaius is commended not just for his personal faith but for his generous hospitality toward traveling ministers. By welcoming these gospel workers, Gaius wasn't merely providing a bed and meal. He was participating in their ministry. His hospitality became a form of partnership in the gospel work happening far beyond his immediate reach. This challenges our understanding of ministry participation. Not everyone is called to be a missionary or pastor, but everyone can support those who are. When we provide resources, encouragement, prayer, or practical help to those spreading the gospel, we become "fellow workers with the truth." Hospitality in this sense goes beyond entertaining guests. It's about leveraging our resources—our homes, finances, time, and talents—to advance God's kingdom. It's recognizing that our support enables others to go places we cannot go and reach people we cannot reach.

BIBLE VERSE

"You are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God." - 3 John 5-6

REFLECTION QUESTION

How might God be calling you to practice kingdom hospitality? Is there a ministry worker, missionary, or even a neighbor who needs your support and welcome?

QUOTE

You may not be able to go everywhere that they go. You may not be able to do everything that they do, but by your support, by your welcome, you are participating in what God is doing around the world.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for the privilege of participating in Your kingdom work through hospitality and support. Open my eyes to see opportunities to welcome others in ways that advance Your gospel. Amen.

NOTES

DAY 3: BEWARE OF PRIDE IN LEADERSHIP

DEVOTIONAL

Leadership is a sacred trust, not a platform for self-promotion. In 3 John, we encounter Diotrephes—a sobering example of how pride corrupts leadership. Unlike Gaius who served others, Diotrephes served himself. John doesn't mince words about this man who "loves to be first." His leadership was characterized by rejecting authority, spreading malicious gossip, refusing hospitality, and controlling others through intimidation. His desire for prominence poisoned his character and damaged the church. The spirit of Diotrephes still exists today—in churches, workplaces, families, and even in our own hearts. Whenever we prioritize our status over service, our recognition over relationships, or our authority over accountability, we're walking the dangerous path of pride. True godly leadership looks different. It's marked by humility, accountability, service, and a desire to see others flourish. Jesus modeled this when He washed His disciples' feet and gave His life as a ransom for many. He showed that greatness in God's kingdom comes through serving, not being served.

BIBLE VERSE

"I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us." - 3 John 9

REFLECTION QUESTION

Where might the "spirit of Diotrephes"—the desire to be first—be showing up in your life? How can you intentionally practice servant leadership this week?

QUOTE

He is a self appointed, self promoting, self indulging, self important, evil man in the church. Presenting Himself as a leader, a believer.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, forgive me for the times I've sought prominence rather than service. Guard my heart against pride and the desire to be first. Help me to lead like You—with humility, gentleness, and a genuine concern for others. Show me where I can serve without recognition and give without expectation of return. Reshape my understanding of greatness according to Your kingdom values. Amen.

NOTES

DAY 4: CHOOSE YOUR INFLUENCES WISELY

DEVOTIONAL

We become like those we follow. This simple truth lies at the heart of John's command: "Do not imitate what is evil, but what is good." Our influences shape us—often in ways we don't immediately recognize. In 3 John, we see three different models: Gaius (the generous host), Diotrephes (the proud leader), and Demetrius (the well-respected believer). John urges his readers to carefully consider which example they'll follow. This remains crucial advice today. In a world of influencers, celebrities, thought leaders, and content creators, we're constantly exposed to models for living. Some of these influences draw us closer to God's ways; others subtly pull us away. The people we spend time with, the voices we listen to, the content we consume—all of these shape our character, values, and behaviors. That's why we must be intentional about our influences, inviting those that reflect godly character while limiting those that don't. Remember: imitation happens naturally. We don't have to try to become like those we admire—it happens through exposure and attention. This is both a warning and an opportunity.

BIBLE VERSE

"Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God." - 3 John 11

REFLECTION QUESTION

Who are the primary influences in your life right now? Are they leading you toward godliness or away from it?

QUOTE

Be careful who you imitate. Be careful who you pattern your life after. Be careful who you listen to. Don't imitate evil, imitate good.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, grant me wisdom to discern healthy influences from harmful ones. Help me to be intentional about who I allow to shape my thinking, values, and behavior. Draw me to people who reflect Your character and truth. Guard my heart and mind from influences that would slowly pull me away from You. May I become more like Christ by following those who follow Him. Amen.

NOTES

DAY 5: BUILDING A LEGACY OF GOODNESS

DEVOTIONAL

What will people say about you when your name comes up in conversation? Demetrius, briefly mentioned in 3 John, received a remarkable commendation: he had a good reputation with everyone, his life aligned with truth, and he earned the apostle's personal endorsement. A good reputation isn't built in a day. It's constructed through countless small decisions, consistent character, and faithful living over time. Like Demetrius, we build our legacy one choice at a time. This matters because our lives speak louder than our words. People may forget what we say, but they remember how we live. Our reputation becomes part of how others encounter Christ through us. The beautiful thing about a good reputation is that its influence extends beyond our immediate reach. When we live faithfully, our example inspires others, who in turn influence people we may never meet. Our faith travels farther than we can go personally. Today, consider what legacy you're building. Are you known for integrity, generosity, and faithfulness? Would others describe you as someone who consistently reflects Christ? Remember, it's never too late to begin building a reputation that honors God.

BIBLE VERSE

"Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone—and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true." - 3 John 12

REFLECTION QUESTION

If someone was to describe your life in one sentence, what do you suppose they would say about you?

QUOTE

A good reputation is built daily on good habits and exercised consistently.

PRAYER

Lord, I want my life to reflect Your goodness and truth. Help me to live in such a way that my reputation brings honor to Your name. Guide my daily decisions, shape my character, and help me to be consistent in following You. May the legacy I leave point others to You long after I'm gone. Thank You that Your grace allows me to build a life of goodness, regardless of my past. Amen.

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