



# For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

*<sup>2</sup>Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. <sup>3</sup>It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. <sup>4</sup>I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. (3 John 2-4)*

The above passage is from a letter that is attributed to John, the disciple of Jesus. He writes the letter to a friend, Gaius, who is very close to him. He speaks of praying a blessing over Gaius that he may enjoy good health, life experiences, and inner fulfillment. He recently heard of Gaius' faithfulness to live out his belief in Jesus, which brings him great joy and likely prompts John to write the letter.

In verse 4, the author broadens his recipients from Gaius to his "children." By this, John is not referring to biological children; it is more likely that he is speaking of those that he influenced to become Jesus followers and/or those that he has supervised, mentored, and disciplined in their faith. Of these "children," John says that he finds great joy in hearing testimonies about the way that they are also, like Gaius, walking in the truth of Jesus.

In a world where children were oftentimes overlooked as undeveloped, immature, and unimportant, John compares his friends to being like children that he loves, nurtures, and cares for. If you were to look beyond your biological children, who are you influencing? Perhaps there are kids on your street, on your child's soccer team, your grandkid's friends, or others that you can be a positive role model for and point them to deeper truth and faith.



## REFLECTION:

Consider what kind of influence you are having on the people around you.

## PRACTICE:

Spend some extended time with a child, asking them about their life and perspective.