



## Week 3 (January 22-28): Lesson Guide

**Open in prayer**

**Welcome/Introductions**

**Recall the guidelines together. Ask: "What is the purpose of the guidelines?" Answer: To be relational!**

**Hook Question:** How does a selfish person usually effect a team? How about a rebellious person?

**Ask a group member to retell last week's story (Jesus calls His disciples).**

**Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:**

As we continue our series on The Local Church, we will continue to consider how the local church is a team working together towards a common mission – making disciples of Jesus. In order to be a good team player, we must lay down selfishness and work under authority.

The story this week is actually found in the third epistle of John. This epistle was written by an elder to another elder whose name was Gaius. The purpose of the letter was to encourage Gaius and his church to continue to welcome other church leaders as they carried the Word of God. You must remember that, at the time this letter was written, the church was small but growing. Church leaders would pass letters from the apostles around from city to city, and from church to church. As the carriers of these letters came in, the church was encouraged to welcome them and show hospitality. Furthermore, the church was also encouraged to receive the teachings of the apostles who had written these letters with gladness and a teachable spirit. However, there was a guy in the church named Diotrephes (dee-AHT-rehf-ehz). When the story says that Diotrephes "likes to put himself first," what it is saying is that he was not welcoming the messengers that carried the letters, nor was he submitting to the authority of the apostles. In this way, Diotrephes was self-centered, and he wasn't a team player. This mutiny was a huge threat to the message of Jesus and to the early church as they worked together as a team to make disciples. Therefore, the elder who wrote this letter made an example out of Diotrephes. This is where our story begins...

**Tell the story from 3 John 5-12**

**Rebuild the story** – (group members retell the story based on what they remember)

**Read Matthew 3 John 5-12** – (ask the group to read these verses)

**Discuss these questions:**

Head Questions:  
Quicker tempo.

- How was Diotrephes not being a good team player? How were his actions impacting the team?
- What made Demetrius a good team player?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart Questions:  
Slow down & wait!

- When it comes to being on mission for Jesus, how are you self-centered?
- When it comes to being part of the team (the church), how do you resist authority?

Action Lines

- What do you need to change to be a better team player in the church?
- Be a team player! Spend time this week investing in the people in this group.
- Practice sharing Jesus! Who can retell this week's Bible story to our group?

**Series Memory Verse:** 1 Peter 3:8 - Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

**Ask for a volunteer to tell the Bible story next week. (Consider having your apprentice facilitate.)**

**Prayer:** Spend time in prayer. Ask people to limit their prayer request to their own personal needs.