

THE LETTER OF JUDE
JUDE 1:1-25

LESSON PREP

This week, we will be studying Jude. In this letter, Jude, a half-brother of Jesus, writes to an unspecified church on an urgent matter. There are false teachers in the church leading others astray. Jude calls out these false teachers and pleads with the Christians to “contend for the faith” and remain true to their Lord Jesus Christ.

PRE LG TEXT

MESSAGE QUESTIONS

Have you ever taken some bad advice from an unreliable source? Did you wish someone had warned you before you made that mistake? That’s exactly what Jude is trying to do in his letter, which we will be studying tonight in Lifegroup.

SCRIPTURE
MEMORIZATION

Jude 1:20-21

1ON1 FOLLOW UP

Discuss how they can strengthen their faith in God and their knowledge of his Word, so that they will be better able to recognize and address false teaching when they encounter it.

OVERVIEW

The following video by The Bible Project gives a great overview of the book of Jude: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/jude/>

OPENING CHARGE (v. 1-4)

- What do you think it means to “contend for the faith”?
- Clearly Jude believe that he was addressing a very important matter in the church because he stopped in the middle of a longer letter he was writing to write this shorter, more urgent letter. What was the issue that he was addressing?
- NOTE: In his introduction to Jude, Eugene Peterson suggests that these “godless men” were actually traveling philosophers who made a living by teaching spirituality. When they heard about the growing Christian church they saw a business opportunity to begin teaching a version of Christianity which had all the benefits of salvation without the hassle of moral practices like sexual purity. Thus they “changed the grace of God into a license for immorality.”

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Jude saw this an urgent issue that needed to be addressed immediately. He wrote to this unspecified church to call out the false teaching and commend the believers to stay strong in the faith by continuing to obey Jesus’ teachings.*

ACCUSATION OF CORRUPT LEADERS (v. 5-19)

- What do the unbelievers (v.5), the angels (v.6), and Sodom & Gomorrah (v.7) all have in common and how does this relate to the false teachers Jude is warning about?
- Again Jude compares these false teachers to 3 infamous characters: Cain (Gen. 4), Balaam (Num. 22-25, 31:16), and Korah (Num 16). The Bible Project points out that the commonality among these 3 figures is that they each spread corruption to others. Why is this an appropriate analogy for the false teachers Jude is addressing?
- The next 3 comparisons (shepherds who feed themselves, clouds without rain, trees without fruit) are all not fulfilling the job they were created to do. Why do you think Jude uses these analogies?
- Verse 16 addresses not the teachings of the men in question, but instead looks at their immoral actions. What does this say about the relationship between a teaching and actions/character of the teacher(s)? What does this mean for the importance our actions/character?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *It’s clear that Jude saw these false teachers as a very serious threat to the integrity of the church, and he uses some very strong language in denouncing them. We can also see that the primary reason for Jude’s letter is his love for those to whom he is writing and his desire to protect them from the dangers of false teaching and bad theology. One of the best ways we can show our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ is to lovingly point out where someone might be straying from what Jesus and the Word of God has taught us.*

CLOSING CHARGE (v. 20-25)

- How does Jude encourage the believers to fight against the false teachers’ bad theology?
- In verses 22-23, Jude challenges his readers to take on the role saving others from the results of these false teachings. How does this challenge our modern view of “live and let live”, not wanting to offend anyone, or minding our own business?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Jude ends with some practical ways that his readers can guard their own faith as well as how to help others who may be struggling. Our love for God should naturally lead us into closer, more intimate relationship with Him, and it should also cause us to fight for other believers in their troubles.*

APPLICATION

Jude gives us 3 ways to guard ourselves against false teachings: build up your faith, pray in the Holy Spirit, and keep yourself in God’s love. How can you practically use these keys to strengthen your own relationship with God and help others who may be struggling? Do you need to grow in prayer, in reading God’s Word, in seeking God’s presence? Make a realistic plan to improve in those areas THIS WEEK!

