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## Lesson 16 - Jude

The book of Jude has been referred to as “a call to arms”. Like many of the letters of the New Testament, Jude was written to warn believers of false teachers who had crept into the church unnoticed. However, this book is not simply a warning; it is a call to contend for the faith, to fight for the truths of God’s Word. Along with the challenge to contend, Jude is a beautiful letter of encouragement. It was written to those who are *called* and reminds us of who we are and Who is able to keep us. May you be provoked as you study the twenty-five verses of this letter – provoked to fight, provoked to fortify yourselves in your most holy faith, and provoked to fall on your knees in praise to the only wise God. To Him and Him alone be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen!

### **Memory Verse:**

*“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” Jude 1:3*

Review this verse often throughout the week. Write it out a couple of times to help you commit it to memory. By week’s end, try to notice *how* and *where* you are able to it into practice. Note your results on the last page of your homework.

### **FIRST DAY – JUDE 1:1-4**

Begin your study each day with a word of prayer.

Read Jude in its entirety.

Jude was not only the brother of James, he was also the half-brother of Jesus. Jude, along with the other brothers of Jesus, did not believe Jesus until after the resurrection. Imagine what it must have been like when the Holy Spirit revealed this incredible truth, that their brother was the Messiah, the Chosen One, the Holy Lamb of God. Jesus’ brothers had known Him from their

birth. Suddenly, the childhood of Jesus must have made sense. They had watched Him not only in the spotlight of ministry, but they watched him when He was hungry and sleepy; they were very aware of His reactions to the challenges of day-to-day life. The disciples could testify of Jesus, but think how much more powerful a testimony James and Jude had. They could confirm from their daily experiences all the disciples said and wrote.

1. How does knowing who wrote this letter inspire you to take careful consideration of its contents?

2. Read James 1:1. Both James and Jude introduce themselves as servants of the Lord, rather than refer to their natural relationship with Him. Why do you think they chose to use the title “*servant* of Jesus Christ” rather than “*brother* of Jesus Christ”?

a. How does this speak to you about the titles you choose or desire for yourself?

3. The letter of Jude is not specific as to whom it is written to. How are the readers described in verse 2?

To those who are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ by God the Father, and  
\_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ.

a. What other word does he use to refer to the recipients in verse 3?

Jude removes the harshness of the strength of this letter, by reminding those he is writing to of who they are. The term *beloved* does not refer to *Jude’s* tenderness towards the reader, but to *God’s*. “Divinely loved ones” or “God’s beloved ones” gives a better sense of the meaning.

4. The first four verses of Jude contain his greeting and purpose for writing the letter. What was Jude’s concern?

a. How are these men described in verse 4?

- b. Who did they deny?
  - c. What does 1 John 2:22,23 say about this?
5. In response to the problem mentioned in verse 4, what was Jude exhorting the Beloved to do?
6. Record what you learned from the following examples of contending for the faith:
- a. Acts 6:8-10.
  - b. Acts 17:3
  - c. Acts 18:28
7. Personal: Explain in your own words what it means to contend for the faith as a Christian today.

*Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*  
*1 Timothy 6:12*

## **SECOND DAY – JUDE 1:4-19**

Read all of Jude for review.

Jude does not mince words as he describes these men who crept in unnoticed.

1. List what you discover about these men in the following verses:

Verse 4

Verse 8

Verse 10

Verses 12,13

Verses 14,15

Verse 16

Verse 18

Verse 19

2. In verse 5-11, Jude lists 6 examples of apostasy in the past and the judgment of God upon them. In verses 5-7 he discusses the sin of unbelief, the rebellion of the angels, and the sexual sin of Sodom and Gomorrah. He further warns of the sins of Cain, Balaam, and Korah in verse 11. Cain was an example of the man who believes in God, but seeks Him according to his own terms. Balaam's sin was that of greed, seeking after gain above God's will. Korah's sin can be described as a denial of authority. Why must we be careful not to allow these kinds of thinking into either our lives or our church?

3. Jude verses 12 and 13 present six vivid pictures of the false teachers. Choose one of the examples given and describe in your own words what Jude is saying.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Jude is very thorough in describing the false teachers and their sure judgment. Jesus was equally stern with those who misrepresented the truths of God. Record His concern from Matthew 23:13.

### **THIRD DAY – JUDE 1:17-23**

Begin by reading Jude in its entirety.

In this paragraph division Jude switches gears and focuses back on the recipients of the letter, God's beloved believers.

1. With what two words does Jude begin verse 17 and 20?
2. List the instructions given to believers in this section of Jude and give a description of what you think that looks like practically.

Verse 17

Verse 20

Verse 21

Verse 22

Verse 23

3. How would obeying these commands be an antidote to falling prey to the deception of a false teacher?
4. According to these verses, what is our responsibility to one another? (See James 5:19,20)
5. Personal: While some people today would shy away from taking a firm approach when it comes to exposing false teachers and defending the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Jude's letter reminds us that there may be times when it's necessary to take a bolder, more aggressive stance in defending what we believe – not allowing the world to pollute it, dilute it, or destroy it – and exhorting our brothers and sisters in Christ not to stray from it. Have you ever had to take a firm stance in defending the truth of the gospel? What was the outcome? Can you share your story?

## **FOURTH DAY – JUDE 1:24,25**

Read Jude, focusing on verses 24 & 25.

The closing statement of Jude is one of the most beloved benedictions in the Bible. It takes us from the command to contend for the faith, the description of those we are fighting, the instructions to believers as to how to contend, and brings our focus to the One who contends for us, our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Take a moment to dissect Jude verse 24:

- a. According to verse 24, what is He able to do?
- b. How is He going to *present* you?
  - describe *faultless*
- c. What is His attitude going to be?
  - describe *exceeding joy*
- d. Now, what is your reaction to these facts?

2. Meditating on Jude 24 helps us relate to Jude's response in verse 25. Write out verse 25:

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- a. Describe God's wisdom:

Can you give a scripture to support your answer?



b. Describe God's glory and majesty:

Can you give a scripture to support your answer?

c. Describe God's dominion and power:

Can you give a scripture to support your answer?

3. Personal: How does dwelling upon the reality of Jude 24 and 25 cause you to want to respond to Jude's exhortation to contend for the faith?

*Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God,  
be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. - 1 Timothy 1:17*

→ Memory Verse Review: Can you recite your memory verse? Have you been able to put it into practice this week?