

Joyful Life Bible Studies

JUDE

Introduction and Background

Lesson 1

We have chosen to complete our Joyful Life Bible Study this year by studying the Epistle of Jude. Although Jude has only 25 verses it is a powerful letter. It contains relevant instruction, exhortation and encouragement for all Christians.

This letter was written by Jude, the brother of James, and the half brother of Jesus. The exact date of the writing is uncertain but it is believed to be around A.D. 64-67. The theme of Jude is *contending for the faith*. Jude's exhortation to *contend for the faith* was written to counteract the apostasy (abandoning of the faith) that was creeping into the church. Ungodly men who denied the deity of Christ were promoting an immoral lifestyle that presumed upon the grace of God.

Concerning the epistle of Jude, Pastor Chuck wrote: *Today there are more heretics and apostates than ever before, which makes this little book a relevant and necessary reminder for us to contend for the faith.* This book emphasizes the importance of remaining steadfast in our faith in a time of increasing compromise and growing opposition against Christianity. We need to study and heed the exhortations and warnings recorded in Jude.

*... It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you
that ye should earnestly contend for the faith
which was once delivered unto the saints.*

Jude 3b

FIRST DAY: Overview

1. Jude wrote this letter to encourage believers to maintain a consistent and steadfast walk with the Lord. Take a few moments to read through this short letter and write the phrase or verse that speaks to you today about your walk.

2. This week's lesson centers on Jude 1-7. Jude's instruction is as crucial for us today as it was for the early church. He wrote to expose the heresies of the false teachers and warn of their ultimate end. Read the following paragraphs and give a brief title for each:
 - a. Jude 1,2

 - b. Jude 3,4

 - c. Jude 5-7

3. What is your greatest desire in your study of Jude? Write your answer as a prayer.

♪ *It is my desire to know Your Word,
You put this desire deep within my heart.*
-selected

SECOND DAY: Read Jude 1,2

1. Jude began his letter with what is called a *salutation*. He immediately introduced himself in verse 1a. How did he describe himself?

_____ /

- a. We know that Jude and James were sons of Mary and Joseph making them Jesus' half brothers. Instead of identifying himself in this way, he said he was a *servant* (bond servant) of Jesus Christ. What does this reveal about Jude?

- (1.) What example is there in this for you?

2. In verse 1 Jude describes the recipients of his letter. Observe this by completing the following phrases from verse 1b:

a. *them that are* _____ *by* _____

b. *and* _____ *in* _____

c. *and* _____:

d. What does this mean to you today that you are *sanctified, preserved and called*?

3. Print Jude's greeting to these believers from verse 2.

a. What do these blessings mean to you today?

b. Greet someone this week with Jude 2. Share their response.

Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.
Jude 2 NIV

THIRD DAY: Read Jude 3

1. Jude 3 is one of the most important verses in Jude's letter. Notice the word he uses to begin his exhortation to these believers. Print it here.

a. In what way might this have made the hearers more receptive to his exhortation?

2. In verse 3 we discover the theme and purpose of Jude's writing. While writing to them about their *common salvation*, what does this verse say was *needful*?

a. Define the word *contend*. Use synonyms if you desire.

(1.) *Faith* here represents the basic truths of the Gospel. Why is it important for us today to *earnestly contend for the faith*?

3. Consider this version of the last statement in verse 3c: *the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints*. How does this speak to you about the responsibility and privilege you have as a believer?

a. What does Philippians 1:27b add to this?

(1.) According to II Timothy 1:13 how are we to do this?

4. How has today's study affected your desire and commitment to *contend for the faith*?

Optional: Share a current example of our need to *contend for the faith*.

FOURTH DAY: Read Jude 4

1. The reason Jude stressed the need to *contend for the faith* is found in verse 4. What was it? Answer by writing verse 4a.

a. What do you learn about these *ungodly men* from verse 4?

2. The word *turning* in verse 4 could be translated *changing* or *perverting*. The word *lasciviousness* means *wantonness, absence of moral restraint, indulgence*. The false teachers misused, even abused the *grace of God*, by promoting an immoral lifestyle. What did Paul say about this in Romans 6:1,2?

a. How is this a warning against minimizing sin or living a compromising life today?

Advanced Students: Research and explain the phrase: *who were before of old ordained to this condemnation*.

3. How would obedience to Jude 3b be a protection from the *ungodly men* of verse 4?

*False doctrine is a deadly poison
that must be identified and avoided.
-selected*

FIFTH DAY: Read Jude 5-7

1. Jude reminded his readers of God's judgment by citing three Old Testament examples. Identify them from the following verses:

- a. Jude 5

- (1.) Compare I Corinthians 10:5-10 to Jude 5. Summarize what you see.

- b. Jude 6

- (1.) What does II Peter 2:4 reveal about fallen angels?

- c. Jude 7

Optional: Read Genesis 19:1-29 and summarize what happened to *Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities about them*.

2. Think about the examples in Jude 5-7 of God's judgment and the impact it should have had on the recipients of this letter. Write your thoughts.

- a. When we consider the present condition of our world, how should these warnings affect us today?

3. Read II Peter 2:6-9. What encouragement do you receive from II Peter 2:9a?

SIXTH DAY: Review Jude 1-7

1. If someone were to ask you why Jude wrote this letter, how would you answer?
 - a. What did he stress we as believers should do?

2. With Jude 3-7 in mind write how the following phrases speak to you:
 - a. *contend for the faith*

 - b. *grace of God*

 - c. *set forth as an example*

3. In what way have you been warned or encouraged through your study this week?

4. How has this week's study challenged and motivated you to *contend for the faith*?

*I have decided to follow Jesus,
no turning back, no turning back!*
-selected 🎵