

ONE & DONE

CEDAR VALLEY

STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Teaching Title: Defending the Faith

Key Scripture: Jude 1–25

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

Monday: Jude 1–25

Tuesday: 1 Peter 3:13–22

Wednesday: 1 Timothy 1:3–11

Thursday: 2 Timothy 4:1–8

Friday: Acts 20:25–38

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's word, what do I need to do?
4. What's your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

MEMORY TOPIC:

Contend for the Faith

MEMORY VERSE: John 1:14 NLT

"So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness."

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

Introduction:

Although Jude is one of the smallest books in the Bible, it is packed with power. Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, writes to a community of Christians with an urgent warning about false teachers who have "wormed" their way into the church. These false teachers have twisted God's grace into a license for immorality. Jude urges Christians to "contend" for the faith. But how should Christians contend or defend the faith? Jude instructs them to show mercy, demonstrate love, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and rescue those who are falling away. Essentially, he calls them to respond to others with both grace and truth. Many Christians today choose one over the other. It's easy to emphasize grace over truth, or truth over grace. But they must follow the example of Jesus, who embodied the fullness of both grace and truth. God's grace is never absent of His truth.

Questions:

Icebreaker: What's your cell phone wallpaper?

Read Jude 1–25 aloud together as a group.

1. What is the overall message or purpose of this book?
2. In Jude 8–19, Jude describes the false teachers who have "wormed" their way in (Jude 4). What are some key characteristics of these false teachers? It's important to note that Jude doesn't focus on what these false teachers were teaching, but rather on their behavior. (See Digging Deeper)
3. What do you think Jude means by "contend for the faith" in Jude 3? According to Jude 20–21, how are we supposed to contend for the faith? (See Notes)

4. How does the hope of Jesus' return impact our daily lives (Jude 14-15)?
5. According to Jude 22-23, what should our response be to those who doubt and those who are falling away? How can you demonstrate this in your own life with people who are doubting or being influenced by false teaching?
6. Read John 1:14. How does this passage help us understand how we should contend for the faith?
7. What are some practical ways you can "contend for the faith" this week?

NOTES

Question 3—

Now, Jude isn't so much writing to them about their faith. Rather, he's writing to them about defending their faith. Sometimes, "contend" for the faith is used. The Greek word ἐπαγωνίζομαι (*epagōnizomai*) means "struggle" or "contend strenuously in defense of." It's where we get our word "agonize." That was a word that was used to describe the effort or exertion that would be required of an athlete that was in competition. It was a word that talked about giving 100% effort in the midst of the battle or race.

DIGGING DEEPER

Question 2—

Jude 5-11

"In these three pen-pictures from the Old Testament we see three leading characteristics of the false teachers. Like Cain, they were devoid of love. Like Balaam, they were prepared in return for money to teach others that sin did not matter. Like Korah, they were careless of the ordinances of God and insubordinate to church leaders. It is not without significance for Jude's purpose that each of these Old Testament characters taught others to sin, and each met with ruin."

—Michael Green. *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: 2 Peter & Jude*. Pg 188

Jude 14-16

"Jude draws his denunciation to a climax by quoting the prophecy attributed to Enoch in order to confirm the impending and certain punishment of these men, and he rounds it off with further well-chosen words... Ungodly take up and repeats (four times) the word used in Jude 4 to describe these people... These people are dissatisfied with God's ways of truth and justice because they want to fulfil their evil desires.."

—David Wheaton. *New Bible Commentary*. Pgs. 1418-1419