



A Red Door Series Guide

Contending for the Faith ~ Jude 1-16

The Big Idea

Jude (or *Judah*) was the brother of James and the half-brother of Jesus. Both Matthew 13:55 and Mark 6:3 speak of James and Jude (along with Joseph and Simon) as brothers of Jesus. Though, according to John 7:5, his brothers were not believers in him during his lifetime.

James became a prominent leader in the church in Jerusalem, and Jude evidently became a teacher and missionary. It's interesting to note that while Jude claims James as brother, both he and James refer to themselves as *servants of Jesus*.

The book of Jude was written to encourage the church to contend for the faith and so resist false teachers who were, among other things, perverting the gospel of grace for sexual gain.

Discussion Starters

Jude's audience are identified as *called, loved, and kept*. (v1)

- What do you think he means by this?
- If you apply these words to yourself, how does it affect you?

What 3 things does he pray over the audience? (v2)

- Please add these as prayer points for your group/Red Door

Jude says that they should *contend for the faith* because of the presence of false teachers. (v3)

- What is "the faith" that they should contend for?
- How much does "the faith" change with the course of time (different cultures, languages, social norms)?
- Who is someone you look up to that has a strong faith? What are some characteristics of theirs that you admire?

The false teachers were guilty of twisting God's grace in order to indulge sexual immorality. (v4)

- Does the gospel of free grace and forgiveness make it easier to justify ungodly behaviour?
- How would you counsel a friend who was living contrary to the Way of Jesus but was relaxed about it because they were forgiven?

Jude uses several examples from Old Covenant history to show that those who rebel against God's authority are judged by Him.

- What implications (if any) does this have for your Small Group leaders?
 - What can we do to encourage and support them?
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Building up the Faith ~ Jude 17-25

The Big Idea

Jude is a realist. He's writing to a situation he knows has potential to derail the church. He believes the words of the apostles who saw these false teachers coming (v17), as well as the teaching of his own half-brother concerning wolves in sheep's clothing (see Matt. 7).

At the same time, he doesn't view the church as a helpless victim. He has already told them to contend (to wrestle) for the faith. He now gives them another list of things to *do*.

Ultimately, though, he trusts Jesus to finish the work he began. He says as much in his beautiful final benediction - some of the most glorious words in Scripture:

Now to him who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of his glory, without blemish and with great joy, to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now and forever. Amen.

Discussion Starters

The New Testament is replete with predictions about people who 'scoff' at the Way of Jesus. (v17)

- If this is true, why do Christians prone to outrage when they are ridiculed in the press or on social media?
- Have you ever been scoffed at for being a follower of Jesus? How did you handle it? What could you do differently to better emulate the example of Jesus?

In contrast to those who scoff, Jude encourages us to do 4 things. (v20-21) Discuss what it might look like for us to:

1. *build yourselves up in your most holy faith*
2. *praying in the Holy Spirit*
3. *keep yourselves in the love of God*
4. *waiting expectantly for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life.*

We're given 3 ways to treat those who (to varying degrees) have started following false teachers/teachings. (v22-23) Discuss what it might look like for us to:

1. *Have mercy on those who waver;*
2. *save others by snatching them from the fire;*
3. *have mercy on others but with fear, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.*

Jude finishes his letter with an encouragement to trust in Jesus for our final perseverance and salvation. (v24-25)

- Jude's letter has quite a dark mood. Does his final benediction encourage you? What specifically?
- Share one truth that has impacted you during the course of this mini-series.

