

Contending for the Faith

How do we contend for the faith?

¿Cómo luchamos por la fe?

1. Let's watch out for _____ teachers.

Vigilemos a los _____ profesores.

Jude 1:4a (Judas 1:4a)

Jude 1:12-13 (Judas 1:12-13)

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (2 Timoteo 3:14-17)

2. Let's live _____ lives.

Vivamos vidas _____.

Jude 1:4b (Judas 1:4b)

Jude 1:7 (Judas 1:7)

Jude 1:14-15 (Judas 1:14-15)

3. Let's follow Jesus as our _____.

Sigamos a Jesús como nuestro _____.

Jude 1:4c (Judas 1:4c)

2 Peter 2:1 (2 Pedro 2:1)

Jude 1:16 (Judas 1:16)

Luke 9:23-24 (Lucas 9:23-24)



Life Group Discussion Questions

July 5-12

Scripture: Jude 1:1-16

Jude wanted to write a letter about the salvation that all Christians have in common. However, moved by the Spirit, he felt the need to warn Christians about the false teachers in many churches who “have crept in unnoticed” (1:4).

The false teachers he warned his readers about denied Jesus Christ as “our only Sovereign and Lord” (1:4). However, the focus of Jude’s letter was on the sins of these men rather than their false doctrines. Jude compared these false leaders to people and angels in the Old Testament who rebelled against God.

We occasionally hear about religious leaders involved in some sexual immorality or financial scandal. In our world today, many charlatans pose as spiritual leaders and use their influence to take advantage of people. We would do well to heed the warnings in Jude and be ready to contend earnestly for the faith.

The Bible Project has an excellent video about Jude available on YouTube. https://youtu.be/6UoCmakZmys?si=p9oy0GJSO4_yb5v6

Read Jude 1:1-16

1. How did the author of this letter describe himself? (1:1)
2. How did Jude describe his audience in verse 1?
3. How did Jude bless his readers in verse 2?
4. What was Jude referring to when he talked about “the faith”? (1:3)

Raymond Kelcy observes,

Jude is quite valuable for its emphasis upon true doctrine. Jude reveals his recognition of apostolic authority and his recognition of a body of truth which he describes as “the faith” which had been “once for all delivered to the saints.” He thus shows his recognition of the existence of an authoritative body of truth. For this truth, he insists that Christians must contend. (Kelcy, 169)

5. According to verse 4, why did Jude feel like he needed to change his topic and urge his readers to contend for the faith?

6. What were certain people in verse 4 doing to the grace of God?

David Helm writes,

It is too easy and convenient to assume that when Jude speaks to “certain people,” he speaks to others and not to us. But this verse reveals our underbelly. Isn’t Jude’s trouble with insiders? Didn’t they “creep in unnoticed”? And in verse 12, aren’t they seated at the Lord’s Table? The truth is, this verse unmasks our propensity. Who among us, if left alone by the Holy Spirit for a single second, might not risk all Heaven holds for a moment of earthly satisfaction? Daily, the temptation is to presume upon grace. Presumption is our greatest sin. This verse belongs to the church. (Helm, 298)

7. How were these false teachers denying Jesus? (1:4)

These false teachers may have been promoting false ideas about Jesus, like the Gnostics in the letters of John (1 John 2:22-23; 4:2-3; 2 John 1:7). However, Jude describes how the sinful actions of these men show that they are not true followers of Jesus.

Gary Holloway notes,

This misunderstanding of grace as permission to sin leads them to “deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.” This denial was probably not verbal (if they had said “Jesus is not Lord,” they could not have slipped into the church) but actual: “They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him” (Titus 1:16). These false teachers wanted salvation without following the Savior who as Sovereign and Lord demands that we die to sin as we follow him. (Holloway, 152)

8. What Old Testament event was Jude referring to in verse 5?

9. What kind of judgment was Jude referring to in verse 6?

10. According to verse 7, why did God punish the people of Sodom and Gomorrah?

11. Why did the archangel Michael choose not to accuse Satan directly but rather say, “The Lord rebuke you”? What application can we make from this example? (1:8-9)

12. How are godless people like “unreasoning animals”? (1:10)
13. Who are the ungodly examples mentioned in verse 11?
14. What metaphors were used to describe the false teachers? (1:12-13)

Michael Green writes,

The love-feasts provided the setting for communion in the early church, and very soon they proved liable to abuse through greed, disorder, and immorality (1 Cor. 11:20). Immorality at the love-feast had broken out in the community to which 2 Peter 2:13 was addressed, and so it seems to have done here. These libertines in the love-feasts were like sunken “reefs,” waiting to shipwreck the unwary. Indeed, it was upon reefs like this that the *Agape* did in fact founder in the second century. (Green, 201)

15. Who did Jude quote in verses 14-15?

This quote is from 1 Enoch 1:9. While the book of Enoch is included in the Ethiopian Apocrypha, it is not included in the Bible. It is a compilation of ancient writings that were put together no earlier than 300 BC. However, according to Jude, it contains at least one authentic quotation from the same Enoch we read about in Genesis. Notice that Jude did **not** say that Enoch “wrote” this statement in a book, but that he “prophesied...saying.” Wes Huff has a good video about the book of Enoch on YouTube. <https://youtu.be/-1WUWW7ZCEc?si=0buBlqyb-bzaFeEW>

16. How did Jude describe the false teachers in verse 16?
17. How should Christians contend for the faith today?
18. How can we guard against false teachers today?
19. Why is it necessary to accept Jesus as our only Lord?
20. What can you do to demonstrate godliness in your life?

Sources cited:

Green, Michael. *2 Peter and Jude*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009.
Helm, David R. *1–2 Peter and Jude*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015.
Holloway, Gary. *James & Jude*. College Press, 1996.
Kelcy, Raymond. *The Letters of Peter and Jude*. Austin, TX: Sweet, 1972.