

JUDE'S CALL TO

# DEFEND THE FAITH

## DISCUSSION GUIDE



## WEEK 2: WHEN WE DON'T CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

### Read the Text Jude 5-16

<sup>5</sup> Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. <sup>6</sup> And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— <sup>7</sup> just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

<sup>8</sup> Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. <sup>9</sup> But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.” <sup>10</sup> But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. <sup>11</sup> Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. <sup>12</sup> These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding

themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; <sup>13</sup>wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

<sup>14</sup>It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, <sup>15</sup>to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” <sup>16</sup>These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

### **Main Point**

In this rather intense passage, Jude gives his fellow Christians a serious warning about drifting away from the truth. Similar to our culture today, in Jude’s time, false teachers were infiltrating the church and leading people astray with false teaching and false doctrine.

These false teachers that Jude warns against have something in common. They rely on dreams and give false interpretation of them, they reject authority, and they blaspheme “the glorious ones” which refers to angels who are God’s messengers and instruments of judgment. These characteristics of false teachers are a sound warning to us. ***If we encounter false spirituality, opposition to godly authority, and blasphemy, Jude urges us to run towards the truth we have in Jesus and our doctrine.***

How do we know if we’re drifting away from the truth? Jude gives us three biblical villains to use as a litmus test. He starts with Cain. And not in the way that we’d expect, because he actually refers to extra-biblical tradition that understood Cain as being a cynic. Cain was known as having said that there is no judgment in the afterlife and that God is not good enough to trust. This is what cynicism can do to us! It infiltrates our minds and hearts and drifts us away from resting and trusting in Jesus and leads us to a false

sense of self-sufficiency and hopelessness. ***If you want to contend for the faith and cling to the things that are true, you have to destroy and war against every cynical thought that rises up and says that the kingdom doesn't really matter and God is not who He really says He is.***

Jude then moves on to talk about Balaam who was an idolater that was willing to sin for monetary gain. Balaam's sin was believing that God was not good enough to provide. How many of us can relate to this lie that often lies undiscovered and unacknowledged in us? ***We need to ask the Holy Spirit to search our hearts to reveal if we are perhaps more in love with money than we are with Jesus.***

Jude's final villain is Korah who in the book of Numbers, despised authority and believed that God is not good enough to obey. Although we may not find ourselves in all-out rebellion towards authority, ***if we find ourselves experiencing God's plan for us as punitive, mean, or unjust, that's a sign that we could be in danger of drifting.***

So where do we find hope in this? How can we protect ourselves against drifting and the contagion of false teachers? The good news is that we have access to everything we need through the Holy Spirit, God's word, and the godly community He provides us.

### **Reflect Together**

1. What parts of life tend to bring out your cynicism? Has it grown stronger over time or become less frequent? What helps bring you back to trusting in Jesus?
2. Are there any ways that money or your pursuit of money are harming your spiritual life? Your relationships? What things that money can bring are the most enticing to you? What helps to remind you that God is good enough to trust?
3. When God corrects or redirects you, do you usually experience that as punitive or as His loving care? Why is that? What helps remind you that He is good enough to obey?