

JUDE'S CALL TO

DEFEND THE FAITH

DISCUSSION GUIDE



WEEK 3: HOW TO CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

Read the Text Jude 17-23

¹⁷ But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” ¹⁹ It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²² And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

Main Point

Making the decision to follow Jesus is just the beginning of our faith journey. In this passage, Jude reminds his audience of that and implores them to contend for their faith by staying strong, immersing themselves into good community, and remembering the truths of the gospel.

How do we contend well for our faith? Jude exhorts us to build our faith. What does this mean though? ***We will contend well when we build our connection and closeness with the word of God.*** We have ample opportunity to do this in community where God

speaks through His people, in our Bible reading where God speaks through His word, and through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

Being grounded in God's word isn't an end in itself though. Anyone can read and study the Bible! When we build our connection and closeness with God, we are better equipped to abide in what we know to be true about who God is and what He has called us to. ***We will contend well when we abide in God and allow His word to transform our hearts and lives.***

Anyone who has been walking in their faith for any amount of time knows that building and abiding isn't always easy. Knowing this, Jude encourages believers to be prepared for battle for both their own faith as well as the faith of others. ***As Christians, we have a mission to go and make disciples, and part of that mission involves going to battle on behalf of others.*** There are people in our lives who are struggling with doubt and slipping away from the truth and who are living in outright rebellion. As followers of Jesus, we are called to come alongside these brothers and sisters in Christ and pursue them with truth and the mercy of Jesus.

Reflect Together

1. Why is it important to build your faith, and how do you go about doing that? Consider how God speaks through His word, His people, and His Spirit.
2. What does it mean to abide? What does that look like in your life? When is it challenging to abide, and what helps you through those challenges?
3. Is there someone (including yourself) that you feel the Spirit prompting you to contend for? Someone who is doubting, believing lies, or is in outright rebellion? What's a next step you can take in pursuing that person with the truth of the Gospel?