



3-WEEK STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF JUDE

The Book of Jude was written sometime during the latter part of the 1st century by Jude, the brother of James (v. 1), who was most likely also a brother of our Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 6:3). Jude was writing about a subject that is crucial to confront in our culture today, false teachers. Just as today, we see different cults and false teachers infiltrate the church with teachings that contradict that of Christ and His apostles (v. 4, 17). Jude was writing from the stance of one that was in defense of the faith. He loved and cherished the truth that comes only from the strength of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit (v. 20).

This is a brief 3-week study through this often forgotten letter. It is short in length, but deep in application, and a passion for the truth of Christ. It is designed to encourage you in your persevering of the faith.

As a leader, you are encouraged to take this study at any level you feel necessary for the culture of your group. You are not required to read the study word for word. I would encourage you to take time before the group meets to review the material and take it to the level you see fit. It is completely up to you. We want to try to stay true to the original meaning of the book, while still allowing for personal application. Each question attempts to do both of those things.

In Him,

Rock Church Community Group Team



JUDE WEEK ONE – “THE ISSUE AT HAND” (JUDE 1-7)

Focus of Study: Read Jude 1-7 together as a group.

Key Verses:

- *“For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.” (v. 4 NIV)*
- *“Thought you already know this, I want to remind you that the Lord at one time delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling – these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day,” (v. 5-6 NIV)*
- *“In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal life.” (v. 7 NIV)*

Digging Deeper:

Jude 4:

1. Compare Jude 4 with 2 Pet. 2:1. Who are the “certain men” that have crept in unnoticed? Discuss if you have noticed any people have appeared to fit this description. How can you discern and deal with these people in the future?
2. The latter part of verse 4 states, “...who turn from the grace of our God into lewdness...(NKJV)” The ESV translation states it as those who “pervert the grace”. The “false teachers” that Jude is describing had an idea that since the world is evil, it makes little, to no difference, in how we conduct ourselves. This was a teaching of the Nicolaitans (Rev. 2:6, 15). Jude hated these ideas, as did Christ.

Other than the obvious reasons, why is this idea of lewdness and immorality so offensive to the gospel? Why would Scripture stress the importance of purity (Rom. 1:24-25)? If comfortable, address how this issue may have affected you or others in the group, in the past?

Jude 5-6:

3. Review Numbers 14:26-33. What is Jude reminding his readers had happened that the Lord destroyed those that did not believe?
4. Why would you think Jude is comparing those that perished in the wilderness with these false teachers in the early church?



5. Jude 6 speaks of the angels that were condemned to hell for leaving their “proper domain” until the final judgment. Review the following verses; Psalms 103:20; Deut. 33:2; Gal. 3:19. What information can we gather about angels that reveal the importance of Jude explaining the fate of certain angels?

Jude 7:

6. Read Romans 1:29-32 together as a group. How does Paul address those that pursue unrighteousness?
7. These two different passages (Rom. 1:28-32; Jude 1:7) address two different groups of people but have the same common theme, why do you think that is so? What is the message Jude is trying to convey to his readers, given the context of the letter?
8. Jude is ultimately comparing the eternal judgment of those that practice sexual immorality and those that have crept in the church to spread similar ideas. But Paul gives us something to focus on and pursue rather than the filth and evil of this world. Read 2 Cor. 6:2-8, and discuss the encouragement this passage provides.

Optional Memory Verse:

“For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.” (Jude 4 NIV)



JUDE WEEK TWO – “REPETITION OF SIN” (JUDE 8-16)

Focus of Study: Read Jude 8-16 together as a group.

Key Verses:

- *“In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings. But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’” (v. 8-9 NIV)*

- *“Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct – as irrational animals do – will destroy them. Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam’s error; they have been destroyed in Korah’s rebellion. These people are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm – shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted – twice dead. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.” (v. 10-13 NIV)*

- *“Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: ‘See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.’ These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.” (v. 14-16 NIV)*

Digging Deeper:

Jude 8-9:

1. Define in your own understanding what it would mean to:
 - A. Defile the flesh
 - B. Reject authority
 - C. Speak evil of the dignitaries (or angels, cf. Gen 19:4-7)

2. What would you suppose is the significance of Jude mentioning Michael’s dispute against Satan for Moses body? (Keep in mind v. 8, and Michael’s verbal response at the end of verse 9).

3. Jude uses the word ‘blaspheme’ quite often in his letter (ESV/NASB translations), but specifically in these few verses. The word means to speak evil of, or to revile verbally. To call somebody blasphemous was a very serious deal back then and through most of the first two millenniums (cf. Luke 23:39).



What are some practical ways people blaspheme against Christ without even realizing it? How have you blasphemed in your own walk? ***Try to go deep with this question. If possible expose our American culture, pop culture, world religions, etc.***

Jude 10-13:

4. Now Jude appears to be attacking their character. He calls the “brute beasts”. He also follows by saying “Woe to them!” The idea of this interjection means that it is not looking good for them, in fact, quite the opposite.

What is so significant about Jude comparing these “brute beasts” to Cain (cf. Gen. 4:5-8), error of Balaam (cf. Num. 22-24), and Korah (cf. Num. 16:1-3)? How can we also learn from these evil men?

5. A love feast as listed in v. 12 was what the early church considered Communion or the Last Supper. Jude explains their participation in these feasts with the description in verses 12-13. Read each description and explain each one and the meaning behind these. Notice the poetic imagery used for these descriptions and notice the historic content listed below, facilitate accordingly as you see fit.

Context: (In ref. to v. 13: In Greek tradition Aphrodite, goddess of desire, was produced from sea foam at the castration of the Titan Uranos (alluding to the teachers’ immorality); waves appear in the Dead Sea Scrolls as an image so casting up the filth of sin. “Wandering stars” referred to the erratic orbits of planets, sometimes attributed to disobedient angels, who were to be imprisoned under God’s judgment and are called stars in 1 Enoch. Judgment as eternal darkness appears in 1 Enoch and elsewhere. The wicked as raging waves appear in Isaiah 57:20 and subsequent Jewish tradition (Dead Sea Scrolls).

Jude 14-16:

6. In Jude 14-15, Jude sites 1 Enoch (a 2nd Century B.C. apocalyptic book, also found in the Dead Sea Scrolls) about the Lord coming down with the ten thousands holy ones to execute judgment on the ungodly. This is becoming a serious matter within the church. With how harsh this epistle is turning out to be, where can we find comfort as followers of Christ in the midst of all of this? See Romans 8:24-25.
7. To end his explicit discourse on the judgment of the apostates listed above, he describes them in a list in v. 16. The last one listed is “flattering people to gain advantage”. See James 2:1-7. Why is this a serious issue? How have you been convicted by the Spirit of the same thing? What are some practical ways we can control this?

Optional Memory Verse:

“Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: ‘See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.’” (Jude 14-15 NIV)



JUDE WEEK THREE – “REPENT AND PERSEVERE” (JUDE 17-25)

Focus of Study: Read Jude 17-25 together as a group.

Key Verses:

- *“But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, ‘In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.’” (v. 17-18 NIV)*
- *“These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear – hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.” (v. 19-23 NIV)*
- *“To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.” (v. 24-25 NIV)*

Digging Deeper:

Jude 17-18:

1. Jude reminds his readers in v. 17 to remember the words that were spoken by the apostles. Heb. 1:1-2 goes a bit further and states that the prophets spoke, and then the apostles spoken by “His Son”.

Review 1 Kings 19:12; Ex. 3:2; Amos 8:1, discuss the different ways that God spoke to the prophets of old. Feel free to discuss the many other ways God spoke to them.
2. The above lists very **unique** ways God spoke to people, but how does God **guarantee** He will speak to us (cf. Rom. 1:19-20, 10:16-18; John 1:1-4). How does this encourage you? Where are some areas in your walk with God that you are stronger than in others? What are some practical ways to correct the areas you struggle in?
3. In v. 18, Jude warns and explains that there are mockers amongst us in the church. 2 Pet. 3:3 states that they walk according to their lusts. What are ways that we can point these people out and react toward them? (**Note: This can be very difficult for people to discuss due to the huge emphasis in our culture to love and appreciate all people, but the fact is we have to deal with certain people in certain manners that may not be comfortable. Consider Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-2, 6-13).**)



Jude 19-23:

4. Jude now makes this letter personal toward his readers, and encouraging toward them. This is so crucial when we focus on some of the errors and people that are harming our growth, we must always remember our faith and where our hope lies. This is absolutely the most important thing to be aware of. First, he reminds them to remember their most holy faith and continue to pray in the Spirit.

What does it mean to pray “in the Spirit” (consider the Psalms and how they are poetic prayer to the Lord, also cf. Eph. 6:18)?

5. In v. 21, Jude encourages them to remain in the love of God, always looking toward the mercy of Christ unto eternal life. Read 2 Pet. 3:11-13 together as a group, is this your focus as a Christian? Is this the source of your act of service toward Christ? If not, is there something else that you are staying focused on instead? **(If someone in your group is focused on something other than the hope of Christ in glory, then this may be a great time to lead someone to the truth about the faith, and even to a saving faith in Christ alone!)**
6. Though most of this letter appears harsh and geared toward the attack of certain people, it does have deep purpose and is toward the accomplishment of a goal. That goal is the salvation of those that live immoral and “backsliding” lifestyles (v. 22-23). And God has given us an active role in that process (cf. James 5:19-20; Rom. 11:13-14). How have you been able to lead someone to repentance in Christ? If you never have been able to do so, do recognize certain people that need to repent and are not willing? How are you encouraged, and what will you do to actively pursue someone’s salvation?

Jude 24-25:

7. These final two verses appear to be better read combined. Jude is recognizing that the “glory and majesty” is due to God our Savior alone. Read Col. 1:16; Rom. 11:33-36, and discuss as a group the wonders of Christ and His sovereignty. How do certain things we encounter daily point us back to the glory of God? How have we maybe missed these simple things?
8. Jude 24 is such a great encouragement to all who put their trust in Christ. Phil. 2:14-16 gives us a great insight into the reason for that. Christ gives us the hope to become people that we are not already. PERFECT!!! Encourage the group to continue to pursue that.

Optional Memory Verse:

“Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.” (Jude 21 NIV)

