

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

JUDE

The book of Jude has been referred to as “a call to arms”. Like many of the letters of the New Testament, Jude was written to warn believers of false teachers who had crept into the church unnoticed. However, this book is not simply a warning; it is a call to contend for the faith, to fight for the truths of God’s Word. Along with the challenge to contend, Jude is a beautiful letter of encouragement. It was written to those who are called and reminds us of who we are and Who is able to keep us. May you be provoked as you study the twenty-five verses of this letter – provoked to fight, provoked to fortify yourselves in your most holy faith, and provoked to fall on your knees in praise to the only wise God. To Him and Him alone be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen!

FIRST DAY: Read Jude using the Observation Worksheet provided. See last pages

1. The author of this letter identifies himself at the very beginning. Who wrote this letter and how does he identify himself?
 - a. Jude was not only the brother of James, he was also the half-brother of Jesus (see Mark 6:3). Jude, along with the other brothers of Jesus, did not believe Jesus until after the resurrection. Imagine what it must have been like when the Holy Spirit revealed this incredible truth, that their brother was the Messiah, the Chosen One, the Holy Lamb of God. Jesus’ brothers had known Him from their birth. Suddenly, the childhood of Jesus must have made sense. They had watched Him not only in the spotlight of ministry, but they watched him when He was hungry and sleepy; they were very aware of His reactions to the challenges of day-to-day life. The disciples could testify of Jesus, but think how much more powerful a testimony James and Jude had. They could confirm from their daily experiences all the disciples said and wrote. Record what Peter said in I Peter 2:21,22 about Jesus.
 - 1.) How does knowing who wrote this letter, inspire you to take careful consideration of its contents?
 - b. Both James and Jude introduce themselves as servants of the Lord, rather than refer to their natural relationship with Him. Why do you think they chose to use the title of *servant of Jesus Christ* rather than *brother of Jesus Christ*?
 - 1.) How does this speak to you about the titles you choose or desire for yourself?

2. The letter of Jude is not specific as to whom it is written to. What word does he use to refer to the recipient in verse 3?

Beloved refers not to Jude's tenderness towards the reader, but to God's. "Divinely loved ones" or "God's beloved ones" gives a better sense of the meaning. Jude removes the harshness of the strength of this letter, by reminding those he is writing to of who they are. Mark or highlight any references to the recipient of this letter on your Observation Worksheet (*Beloved, saints, you, your*).

- a. Who are God's *beloved*? See 2 Thessalonians 2:13. Note: **All** who come to Him for salvation, He *chooses* to save.

1.) What is your favorite name that God calls you? Why?

3. The key words of a book help us to understand its emphasis. Mark the following key words on your Observation Worksheet. Use a different color or symbol to identify each word.

condemnation destroyed judgment example

- a. Summarize what you learned about God's response to those who walk in blatant, unrepented of sin.
-
4. Discovering the author's purpose for writing often gives us a deeper understanding of a book. Knowing *why* a book is written helps us to understand *what* has been written. From verses 3 and 4, why did Jude *find it necessary to write*?
-
5. As you read this epistle, describe your overall impression.

*For this reason we also thank God without ceasing,
because when you received the Word of God which you heard from us,
you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God,
which also effectively works in you who believe.
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13*

SECOND DAY:

1. The letter of Jude can be divided into five paragraph divisions. Using the chart below (Jude At A Glance), write a title or summary statement for each paragraph division. **Note:** a summary statement is a phrase or sentence that describes what you think the section is all about.
2. Reread your paragraph summaries and Jude’s purpose for writing. What do you think is the key verse of this letter?
3. Taking into consideration the key words, paragraph summaries and the key verse write a brief title for the book Jude.
4. Complete the chart below using the information you have previously read or recorded in this lesson.

JUDE AT A GLANCE

THEME/TITLE OF JUDE:

PARAGRAPH THEMES
VERSES 1-2
VERSES 3-4
VERSES 5-16
VERSES 17-23
VERSES 24-25

AUTHOR:

PURPOSE:

KEY WORDS:

KEY VERSE:

THIRD DAY: Read Jude 1-4

1. The first four verses of Jude contain his greeting and purpose for writing the letter. What was Jude's concern?

a. How are these men described in verse 4?

1.) Define the word *licentiousness*

2.) Who did they deny?

a.) What does 1 John 2:22,23 say about this?

2. In response to the problem mentioned in verse 4, what was Jude *exhorting* the *Beloved* to do?

a. Record what you learned from the following examples of *contending for the faith*:

Acts 6:8-10

Acts 17:3

Acts 18:28

b. Explain in your own words what it means to *contend for the faith* as a Christian today.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- 1 Timothy 6:12

FOURTH DAY: Read Jude 5-16

1. Jude does not mince words as he describes *these men* who *crept in unnoticed*. Mark every occurrence of *these*, throughout the book of Jude, but do not mark *these* in verse 7 as it does not refer to these men. Also, mark each use of the word *ungodly*.

List what you discovered:

Verse 4

Verse 8

Verse 10

Verses 12,13

Verses 14,15

Verse 16

Verse 18

Verse 19

2. Jude refers to three Old Testament examples in verses 5-7. He discusses the sins of unbelief, the rebellion of the angels, and the sexual sin of Sodom and Gomorrah. He further warns of the sins of Cain, Balaam, and Korah in verse 11. Cain was an example of the man who believes in God, but seeks Him according to his own terms. Balaam's sin was that of greed, seeking after gain above God's will. Korah's sin can be described as a denial of authority. Why must we be careful not to allow these kinds of thinking into either our lives or our church?
3. Jude 12 and 13 present six vivid pictures of the false teachers. Choose one of the examples and describe in your own words what Jude is saying.

CHALLENGE: Do a word study on the phrase *spots in your love feasts*.

4. Jude is very thorough in describing the false teachers and their sure judgment. Jesus was equally stern with those who misrepresented the truths of God. Record His concern from Matthew 23:13.

FIFTH DAY: Read Jude 17-23

1. In this paragraph division Jude switches gears and focuses back on the recipients of the letter, God's beloved believers. With what two words does Jude begin verse 17 and 20?

- a. List the instructions given to believers in this section of Jude. Underline or highlight the verbs (action words such as *remember and building up*).

Verse 17

Verse 20

Verse 21

Verse 22

Verse 23

- b. How would obeying these commands be an antidote to falling prey to the deception of a false teacher?

- c. According to these verses, what is our responsibility to one another?

My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.

- James 5:19,20

SIXTH DAY: Read Jude 24,25

1. The closing statement of Jude is one of the most beloved benedictions in the Bible. It takes us from the command to *contend for the faith*, the description of those we are fighting, the instructions to believers as to how to *contend* and brings our focus to the One who *contends* for us, our Lord Jesus Christ. According to verse 24, what is He able to do?
 - a. How is He going to *present* you?
 - 1). Describe *faultless*.
 - 2). Describe *exceeding joy*.
 - b. What is His attitude going to be?
 - 2). Describe *exceeding joy*.
 - c. Now, what is your reaction to these **facts**?
3. Meditating on Jude 24 helps us relate to Jude's response in verse 25. Write this verse below.
 - a. Describe God's wisdom.
 - b. Describe God's glory and majesty.
 - c. Describe God's dominion and power.

CHALLENGE: Use Scripture to support your answers.

4. How does dwelling upon the reality of Jude 24 and 25 cause you to want to respond to Jude's exhortation to *contend for the faith*?

*Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God,
be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

- 1 Timothy 1:17

JUDE

Observation Worksheet

¹ Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

² Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

³ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵ But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

⁶ And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own habitation, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

⁷ as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

⁸ Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

⁹ Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

¹⁰ But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

¹¹ Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

¹² These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves; they are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

¹³ raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

¹⁴ Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,

¹⁵ “to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

¹⁶ These are murmurers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.

¹⁷ But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:

¹⁸ how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.

¹⁹ These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

²² And on some have compassion, making a distinction;

²³ but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,
And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

²⁵ To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power,
Both now and forever. Amen.