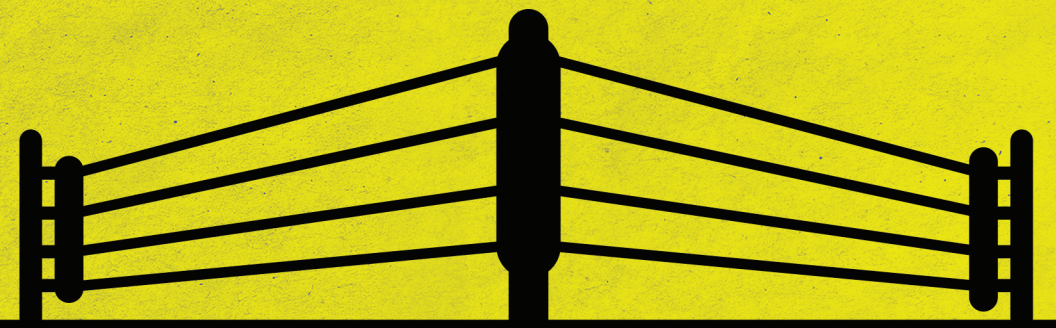
DEFENDING THE GOSPEL

FIGHT FOR THE HOUSE

THE BOOK OF JUDE



CHRIST PLACE.CHURCH

DEFENDING THE GOSPEL

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THE BOOK OF JUDE

INTRODUCTION

The truth of God is worth fighting for. For Christ-followers, there are times when we need to address issues and speak up. What are the essential topics that need to be confronted? How does God want us to handle these interactions? Am I open to the possibility that I may need to change? God, His Word, and His ways should take center stage in our lives, not our beliefs in politics, self, or being right.

The struggles in Jude's time are very similar to the struggles we face today. How can we discern what's right and wrong within the Church? In the same way, bankers know counterfeit currency because they're critically familiar with real money, followers of Jesus can recognize false doctrine because they are well acquainted with the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This Bible study may feel like jumping into the deep end of the pool. However, we don't want to be shallow-minded disciples. Followers of Jesus must be able to defend their faith with the right heart. So, let's dive in together.

PASTOR PAUL WELCH
Discipleship Pastor

USING YOUR WORKBOOK

ICE BREAKER
Before you dive into the study each week, take a few minutes to answer the questions that will get your group talking and help you get to know one another.

VIDEO LESSON
Each week, a video lesson is provided by Christ Place Church Pastors Paul Welch and Danette Matty. Writing things down helps you engage with content. Included in your workbook are places for fill-in-the-blanks and open areas for you to take notes along with the video lesson each week. You will want to reference your notes during your group discussion.

BIBLE READING
We have provided the Scripture reference we will be studying in New Living Translation within your study guide.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
Your Connect Group will walk through these questions together in discussion. You may not get to every question, or your group leader may skip some to keep the discussion moving.

PRAY
Take time as a group each week to share prayer requests and pray together.

NEXT STEPS
At the end of each lesson is a way for you to apply what you've learned and take it further in your own life, in community and on your own. Take some time to do these next steps during the week between your Connect Group meetings.

DEFENDING THE GOSPEL

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WEEK ONE

INTRO: LET'S BEGIN

INTRODUCTION

Welcome everyone to your group! Provide name tags if available. Have everyone introduce themselves, share where they grew up and how awkward they feel introducing themselves on a scale of 1-10.

1 = I want to crawl under my seat.
5 = I'm good, just don't ask any more questions.
10 = Let's go around the circle and do it again!!

ICE BREAKER

What is one of the most memorable first visits you've ever experienced? (First concert, first time at a church, first date, first job, first day of school, etc.)

What's one take-away from the weekend message at Christ Place?

VIDEO LESSON

Title: "Let's Begin"

GROUP GOALS

Before we get into our discussion, let's talk about our group goals.
What do we want our _____ and culture to be during this group?
What do we want from our _____ in this six-week study?
What are our personal _____ from this study?
Am I committed to this group? _____

LEADER

Discuss group goals with everyone.

What's one take-away from today's intro video?

LET'S DIVE INTO TODAY'S PASSAGE

BIBLE READING
As a group, read the book of Jude.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
We're going to start this journey through Jude by reading it together, as a group. Start with the person to leader's left and go clockwise with each person reading one verse. t's okay if we go around two or three times. Just remain fully present as we read. There's good stuff for us in Jude!

1. Who wrote Jude?
2. To whom did he write?
3. What do you notice about Jude's opening greeting?
4. As Jude begins to challenge his fellow followers of Jesus, what is his tone?
5. Why do you think Jude is so passionate here?
6. Notice in verse 5, Jude references events as if his readers know what he's talking about. What difference does this make?
7. Re-read verses 4-7. How many times do you see where people made a decision? (Example: verse 5 - They were faithful, but chose to become unfaithful.)
8. In our life of following Jesus, why is personal decision making so important?
9. What personal decisions are you making to follow Jesus daily?

CONCLUSION
Thanks for being here and diving into Jude together! Who would like to write prayer requests and send them to the group? (via Church Center app, text, email, etc.)

Is there a volunteer who would like to create a volunteer snack schedule and allow the opportunity for everyone to contribute?

PRAY
How can we pray for one another today?
Who would like to close us in prayer?

NEXT STEPS

1. Re-read Jude in your private prayer and reading time.
2. Feel free to jot down questions or observations to share during our discussions over the next several weeks.

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WEEK TWO

JUDE 1-4: UNEXPECTED ISSUES

ICE BREAKER

Welcome, everyone! Let's go around and share our names and the last time you slept past noon.

What is something God impressed on you from the weekend message at Christ Place?

VIDEO LESSON

Title: "Unexpected Issues"

How to face _____:

1. Identify _____.
2. Realize the _____ from within.
3. Speak the _____ in love.

LEADER

What's one take-away from today's video?

LET'S DIVE INTO TODAY'S PASSAGE

BIBLE READING
Read Scripture: Jude 1-4

Greetings from Jude
1 This letter is from Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and a brother of James.
I am writing to all who have been called by God the Father, who loves
you and keeps you safe in the care of Jesus Christ. 2 May God give you
more and more mercy, peace, and love.

The Danger of False Teachers
3 Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the
salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something
else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all
time to his holy people. 4 I say this because some ungodly people have
wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous
grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people
was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord,
Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jude, half-brother of Jesus, self-identifies as a "slave" of Jesus?
2. What does it mean to be "called by God the Father"? Read John 6:44.
3. Jude wanted to write about one thing but saw a problem that needed to be addressed. Interesting to note that as much emphasis as he put on salvation, he chose to put that on the backburner in order to prioritize defending the faith. This is discipleship. What does this tell us about the severity of the issue?
4. It's been said if God is a lion, you don't have to defend him, you just have to unlock the cage. Let's distinguish between ***defending God*** and ***defending our faith*** in Him. What are different ways to defend the faith that God has entrusted to us?
5. Read verse 4 again. That phrase "wormed their way in" literally means "to slip in secretly." What might this infer about the motivations of those causing the issues?
6. What's the difference between someone who misunderstands Scripture and someone who causes division by twisting Scripture?
7. Let's read 1 John 4:1, Hebrews 5:13-14, Acts 17:10, and Colossians 2:8. According to these verses, how can we discern ungodly people and false teaching?

CONCLUSION

Thanks for being here and diving into Jude together! What we are reading in Jude isn't new to God's church. What they experienced then we can see happening now. The key is staying centered on Jesus and what Scripture says.

PRAY

How can we pray for one another today?
Who would like to close us in prayer?

NEXT STEPS

To help you grow in discernment,

1. Read those last four verses—1 John 4:1, Hebrews 5:13-14, Acts 17:10, and Colossians 2:8—from a few different Bible translations.
2. Meditate on these verses and then finish this sentence in your journal: *"Based on Scripture, discernment is..."*

NOTES

WEEK THREE

JUDE 5-11: HITTIN' THE BOOKS!

ICE BREAKER

Welcome, everyone! Let's go around and share our names (if new people have joined) and one place you'd like to visit if money and time weren't an issues.

What's one takeaway from the weekend message at Christ Place?

VIDEO LESSON

Title: "Hittin' the Books"

1. Theology is simply the study of _____.
2. When you understand his word, you'll better understand _____.

LEADER

What's one take-away from today's video?

LET'S DIVE INTO TODAY'S PASSAGE

BIBLE READING

Read Scripture: Jude 5-11

> 5 So I want to remind you, though you already know these things, that
> Jesus first rescued the nation of Israel from Egypt, but later he
> destroyed those who did not remain faithful. 6 And I remind you of the
> angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but
> left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely
> chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment.
> 7 And don't forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns,
> which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion.
> Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the
> eternal fire of God's judgment. 8 In the same way, these people—who
> claim authority from their dreams—live immoral lives, defy authority,
> and scoff at supernatural beings. 9 But even Michael, one of the
> mightiest of the angels, did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but
> simply said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (This took place when Michael was
> arguing with the devil about Moses' body.) 10 But these people scoff at
> things they do not understand. Like unthinking animals, they do
> whatever their instincts tell them, and so they bring about their own
> destruction. 11 What sorrow awaits them! For they follow in the footsteps
> of Cain, who killed his brother. Like Balaam, they deceive people for
> money. And like Korah, they perish in their rebellion.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Re-read verse 5. In Jewish culture, the incidents Jude refers to in verses 5-11 were common knowledge and a part of their written history. If Jude's audience already knew about these events, why was it important to remind them?
2. What were the consequences to the many decisions we see in this passage?
3. How do decisions reflect motives?
4. Read verse 8. Have you ever been guilty of any of these behaviors? Would anyone be willing to share a brief example from your own life?
5. Speaking in general terms, without calling anyone out by name, where in our society do we see what's described in this verse?
6. Verse 6 refers to the "Day of Judgment" which is not a fun topic. We don't like to think of being judged by a perfect God. But what is the importance of God's judgment?
7. Read Romans 13:1 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17. According to these verses, what is the significance of the authority of God and His Word?

CONCLUSION

Thanks for being here and diving into Jude together! Today was both heady and heavy, but that is the beauty of studying theology. Intellectually, we get a full meal, not just snacks. We can respect that the Bible addresses the full spectrum of life - both the comforting and the challenging, the beautiful and the hard stuff.

PRAY

How can we pray for one another today?
Who would like to close us in prayer?

NEXT STEPS

1. Write down one area of your life in which you aren't sure you've allowed the Bible or God to have authority.
2. Commit to a personal time of Bible study to see if there is a scriptural principle you might apply to this area.
3. Ask God to speak to your intellect, as well as your heart, to give you the courage to be led by Him in this area.

For free Bible study resources, check out RightNow Media by visiting https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/user/CPCLN.

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WEEK FOUR

JUDE 12-16: KNOCK-OFF BRANDS

ICE BREAKER

Welcome, everyone! Let's go around and share our names and a favorite childhood snack or toy.

What did you find yourself thinking about from the weekend message at Christ Place?

VIDEO LESSON

Title: "Knock-off Brands"

1. There's a difference between a false _____ and a false _____.
2. A false teacher will use significant _____ moments to promote their false teaching.
3. A false teacher does not produce _____.
4. A false teacher is driven by their own _____.

LEADER

What's one take-away from today's video?

LET'S DIVE INTO TODAY'S PASSAGE

BIBLE READING
Read Scripture: Jude 12-16

> 12 When these people eat with you in your fellowship meals commemorating the Lord's love, they are like dangerous reefs that can shipwreck you. They are like shameless shepherds who care only for themselves. They are like clouds blowing over the land without giving any rain. They are like trees in autumn that are doubly dead, for they bear no fruit and have been pulled up by the roots. 13 They are like wild waves of the sea, churning up the foam of their shameful deeds. They are like wandering stars, doomed forever to blackest darkness.
> 14 Enoch, who lived in the seventh generation after Adam, prophesied about these people. He said, "Listen! The Lord is coming with countless thousands of his holy ones 15 to execute judgment on the people of the world. He will convict every person of all the ungodly things they have done and for all the insults that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." 16 These people are grumblers and complainers, living only to satisfy their desires. They brag loudly about themselves, and they flatter others to get what they want.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In today's passage, Jude refers to false teachers. What makes a false teacher false? Read Proverbs 1:29.
2. Jude gives a strong warning to protect the Church against "Gnosticism," a teaching that says in part, "because you've been forgiven, you can do whatever you want with your body because your soul is going to heaven." Gnosticism is from the Greek word "Gnosis" meaning "knowledge." Knowledge isn't bad; the Bible encourages us to get knowledge. But looking at today's passage, when can knowledge become false teaching?
3. Does the knowledge from which we make life decisions align with biblical truth and principles?
4. Let's admit and be aware of our preconceived ideas, inherent biases, and how they influence us (ex: "God helps those who help themselves."). What biases have you brought into your Bible reading?
5. What role does the Holy Spirit play in reading the Bible?

BIBLE ENGAGEMENT

One way to ensure we're pulling truth from the Bible and not from our inherent biases is to utilize S.O.I.A.P. – an inductive Bible study method. Let's break into small groups and take 10 minutes (set a timer) to practice this using 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

> 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

S. Scripture	What section am I reading?
O. Observation	What does it say? What do you notice? (Who, What, Where, When)
I. Interpretation	What does it mean? The better you get at asking the text questions, the better you get at understanding God's Word. Is there a cross-reference from another portion of Scripture that helps you to understand the one you're reading?
A. Application	How does this apply to me/us now?
P. Pray	Lord, make your word alive in me.

Additional thoughts on Scripture: What scripture are you choosing to read? It's all good, but some of it is tougher than others: Old and New Testaments, historical narratives, songs, wisdom literature, apocalyptic, prophecy, epistles/letters. If you're new, start with the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John).

Additional thoughts on Observation: What does the scripture say? This is the most important starting point! Don't use your imagination on the observation step. It's important during this step to stick closely to what's actually written in the text. Hypothesizing too early short circuits the power of making observations. We can wind up getting off track by injecting our own meaning/thoughts before we've adequately observed and allowed the text to speak for itself.

Once we finish our observations then we can move on to the deeper question of Interpretation. Interpretation is about meaning and this is the time to pull those observations together and contemplate.

(Source material taken from writings by Eric Riddle and author Kay Arthur)

CONCLUSION

Thanks for being here and diving into Jude together! We hope studying the Bible makes you hungrier to know the God of the Bible.

PRAY
How can we pray for one another today?
Who would like to close us in prayer?

NEXT STEPS
Use the SOAP (or SOIAP) method at least once during your Bible study this week. Scripture suggestions: Luke 24:13-34, Romans 15:4, Hebrews 4:12-13, Luke 4:1-4.

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WEEK FIVE
WHAT MATTERS MOST

ICE BREAKER
Welcome, everyone! Let's go around and share a unique talent or skill not many people know about you."

What was your main take-away from the weekend message at Christ Place?

VIDEO LESSON
Title: "What Matters Most"

1. We all need reminders of _____ _____ _____.
2. He is the God of _____, and He is the God of _____.
3. Turning against a belief is called "_____."

LEADER
What's one take-away from today's video?

LET'S DIVE INTO TODAY'S PASSAGE

BIBLE READING

Read Scripture: Jude 17-23

A Call to Remain Faithful

17 But you, my dear friends, must remember what the apostles of our
Lord Jesus Christ predicted. 18 They told you that in the last times there
would be scoffers whose purpose in life is to satisfy their ungodly
desires. 19 These people are the ones who are creating divisions among
you. They follow their natural instincts because they do not have God's
Spirit in them. 20 But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your
most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, 21 and await the
mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this
way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love. 22 And you must show
mercy to those whose faith is wavering. 23 Rescue others by snatching
them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but do so
with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jude begins this part (verse 17) by reiterating, "Remember what the apostles said..." which means he is warning them about something that has always been a problem in the Church. Previously, Jude called out false teachers. In today's reading, he calls out scoffers. What is a "scoffer"?
2. These scoffers, or mockers, in verse 19, are creating divisions amongst Christians. What are examples of divisions in the Church today? He's talking to Christians. What are examples of divisions has the Church experienced in the last few years between followers of Jesus?
3. Read verses 22-23. How have you experienced one of these things from someone else—being built up in your faith, being prayed for powerfully, or being shown mercy, etc.?
4. How have you shown encouragement or mercy to someone else?
5. Read Jude 20-23. Of all Jude's instructions in this passage, which comes naturally to you? Which is more of a challenge to walk out?
6. Jude reminds us of what matters most, similar to the apostle Paul's reminder in 1 Cor 15:1-9:

[1] Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. [2] It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. [3] I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. [4] He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. [5] He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. [6] After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. [7] Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. [8] Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. [9] For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church.

7. Verses 1-4 present the simple gospel in a handful of verses. If you were to restate it to a friend today, how might you put it, without losing the biblical truth? Break into groups of 2 or 3 and set a timer for seven minutes to practice sharing the Gospel using verses 1-4.
8. Once the time is up, share some of the responses with the whole group.

CONCLUSION

Thanks for diving into Jude together and being courageous in practicing sharing the Gospel! Next week is the final lesson. After closing in prayer, discuss what your next steps are after this church-wide study concludes.

PRAY

How can we pray for one another today?
Who would like to close us in prayer?

NEXT STEPS

1. Practice one of Jude's instructions in verses 20-23 with someone who needs the encouragement.
2. Pray for someone who needs to hear the Gospel. Using 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, ask them if you can share it with them.

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WEEK SIX

JUDE 24-25: GOD'S GOT YOU

> 24 Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will
> bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault.
> 25 All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our
> Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and
> in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.

ICE BREAKER

Welcome to the final lesson in this church-wide study! Let's go around and share how you leave a party. Side hug or full hug? Hand shake or fist bump? High five or wave? Or slip out quietly?

What's one thing you want to do differently after hearing this weekend's message?

VIDEO LESSON

Title: "God's Got You"

The last _____:

1. _____ is the one who _____ us.
2. _____ are all His.
3. _____ gets all the _____.

LEADER

What's one take-away from today's video?

LET'S DIVE INTO TODAY'S PASSAGE

BIBLE READING
Read Scripture: Jude 24-25

> 24 Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will
> bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault.
> 25 All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our
> Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and
> in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jude ends his short letter with what's called a doxology—a brief declaration of praise to God. What does this doxology confirm about the character of God?
2. How does God "keep" us?
3. We will always be faced with false teachings and people falling away; and it will be tempting to lose heart. What part of God's character helps you focus on Him? What is it about Jesus that will keep you from losing heart?
4. Read Matthew 24:11-13 and discuss how you see these things are currently present?
   "And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."
5. How should we respond to Jesus' warning?
6. There's something about hope in difficult times. A preacher once talked about faith being like dynamite and hope being the fuse. He said, "Faith can't be ignited without hope." What's the difference between losing faith and losing hope?
7. Read Romans 5:3-5 and discuss how to ignite hope inside:
   "We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love."

CONCLUSION

I hope you've been challenged and encouraged during this study to re-center your hope in Christ. There's a peace and security that comes with knowing that in the end it's not an argument won, it's an eternity with Jesus.

It's significant that we've gone through this study together as a group. We need each other. In community is where we practice everything we've discussed. Let's give each other grace to practice *out there* what we've learned *in here.*

Again, thanks for going on this journey through Jude together!

PRAY

How can we pray for one another today?
Who would like to close us in prayer?

NEXT STEPS

1. What are your plans for your next Connect Group experience?
2. How will you continue to grow in your personal relationship with Jesus?

NOTES

GOING FURTHER
(Digital & print resource resources)

DIGITAL

1. YouVersion Bible App (youversion.com/the-bible-app)
2. BibleProject.com (bibleproject.com/explore/video/jude)
3. RightNow Media (https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/user/CPCLN)
4. Blue Letter Bible (blueletterbible.org)
5. Enduring Word Online Commentary (enduringword.com)

PRINT

1. Filament Bible (Tyndale House Publishers)
2. Student's Life Application Bible (Tyndale House Publishers)
3. Chronological Life Application (Tyndale House Publishers)
4. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, Vol. XI (InterVarsity Press)
5. Fire Bible NIV Study Notes (Life Publishers International)
6. Tyndale New Testament Commentary, 1984.