

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 29, 2009

Passage: Jude 1-4

Memory Passage: Jude 3

**TODAY:** From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jude 1.** How does the author of this letter identify himself? Who is James and is Jude a spiritual brother or actual brother (Acts 15:13, 19; Mark 6:3)? Why do you think that Jude identified himself with James rather than Jesus?

(b) Read John 7:1-9. Jesus at this point in His ministry remains in the north of Israel away from Jerusalem. What kind of response does He get from His brothers about this decision to remain in Galilee? What would it be like or is it like to know the truth about Jesus and not have your own siblings or parents believe?

(c) Jesus' brothers don't get it. Have you ever encountered a similar complete lack of understanding when it comes to sharing your faith? What can we learn about sharing the gospel from Jesus' response to His brothers?

(d) It is amazing to see that God was faithful to James and Jude to make them great men of God. I am sure that Jesus prayed many times for them to have their eyes opened to the truth. Take some time today and write out on a 3x5 card those of your family who are not saved. Pray for them name by name for the rest of this week. Share those names with your Sunday school class and begin rotating those cards through the group every week through the Holiday season.

(e) *Family:* Read John 7:1-9 and Jude 1. Who is Jude (Mark 6:3)? Jesus' brothers don't understand who He really is. What is the best thing we can do for family members or anyone who does not believe in Jesus (Matthew 9:37-38)? Write out the names of your family members who don't know Jesus as their Savior. Divide them up evenly and pray for them. Rotate those names every week through this holiday season.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jude 1.** What are the three things that Jude uses to describe his audience? What is meant by the phrase those who are called? How does Romans 8:29-30 speak about the "calling" of God? What are the pre-requisites to the calling of God according to this verse? What would this reaffirmation of calling communicate to his audience?

(b) What does the next description describe? Why would it be important for the believers to remember this statement as well (Romans 8:28)? Jude's audience is going through troubles with false teachers. We are always in situations where we are being afflicted from different directions. Why at these times it is important to reflect on the love of the Father?

(c) Some translations have "kept for" and others "kept by". Both are probably right. Read Romans 8:37-39. How are we "kept for" Jesus in this passage? Read Jude 24-25. How are we "kept by" according to this passage (Philippians 2:13)?

(d) *Family:* Read Jude 1. What are the three things that describe the people who Jude is writing to? What do each of these mean? Read Romans 8:29-30; 37-39. How does Paul talk about each of these statements? What do these verses say about God's love and power? Thank God that He is a loving and faithful God even when we are not faithful to Him.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jude 2.** Jude greets his readers with a tri-fold encouragement of mercy, peace and love. How is God's mercy toward the believer described in these passages (Ephesians 2:4-5; Romans 9:21-23)?

(b) What does it mean to have peace? Is it some tranquil state? Is it to be calm? Read 1 Corinthians 14:31-33; 2 Corinthians 13:11. How is it that we receive peace from God (Romans 8:6-9; Philippians 4:5-9)?

(c) How is that love poured out in our lives (Romans 5:5; Galatians 5:22-23)? How have we seen love related to peace and mercy in the verses above?

(d) *Family:* Read Jude 2. Give a definition of what mercy, peace and love are. Why is it so important for these things to be a part of our lives? How is it that we have received these from the Lord? How are we to show these toward others? Pray that God would show you a way today to show mercy, peace and love to others around you.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jude 3.** What is the dilemma that Jude had about writing these people? What had Jude wanted to write about? What does Jude give us for the topic of this letter?

(b) Jude says that we are to contend for "the faith" versus "faith". What does Jude mean when he says "the faith" (1 Timothy 6:21; 2 Timothy 1:13; 3:8)?

(c) What does his statement tell us about how organized the early church was in what they believed? Why is this important for us to know?

(d) Paul gives Timothy similar exhortations to contend for the faith. How does he tell Timothy to go about this (1 Timothy 4:1-8; 2 Timothy 1:13-14)?

(e) *Family*: Read Jude 3. Jude says that we are to contend for “the faith” versus “faith”. What does Jude mean when he says “the faith” (1 Timothy 6:21; 2 Timothy 1:13; 3:8)? How is it that we know what “the faith” is? Why is it so important for us to know God’s word? Pray that God would make you wise in the faith so that you might walk by faith in all you life.

#### **DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Jude 4.** According to Jude, should we be surprised by such men? Is God surprised? Why or why not? In your own words, how would you describe these men?

(b) What are they doing specifically? Have you ever encountered people like the ones described in this passage? What might these people look like today?

(c) How does Jude in verse 17-23 go on to instruct us in how to respond to such people? Are you needing to practice any of these things? Are you building yourself up and seeking to help others? How so?

(d) *Family*: Read Jude 4. Should we be surprised when ungodly men show up in the church? How will God deal with them? What do these men do that make them dangerous? How can we protect ourselves from such men (verses 17-23)? Pray that God might protect the church from such people and give the elders discernment.

#### **DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Jude 1-4. What is Jude about to teach us? How might this be helpful for you personally and for the church? What are you doing to be ready to contend for the faith? What disciplines do you need to practice so that you can help build up the body?

**DATE:** November 29, 2009

**PASSAGE:** Jude 1-4

### ***Contending for the faith***

*“that was once for all delivered to the saints”*