

Life Group Guide: Jude 20-25

Connect: 30-45 min

Consider sharing a meal together, discussing the highs/lows of the week or any celebrations/hard things that happened last week, follow up from prayer requests.

A Reminder: If you are looking for a more in-depth study to do during the week before the sermon, we recommend Jackie Hill Perry's study on "Jude: Contending for the Faith in Today's Culture."

Discuss: Scripture/Sermon Discussion (30-45 mins)

1. Read the book of Jude aloud in its entirety. Have someone summarize the sermon in 1-3 minutes. What stood out? What was challenging or encouraging?
2. The sermon asked, "How are we as believers to live in the midst of these false teachers?" How has this sermon series in Jude curated a greater understanding and awareness of your exposure to influences which teach contrary messages to the truth of scripture?
3. Followers of Jesus are kept for Him (v 3) and by Him (v 24). How much of the building up of your faith and relationship with God is your responsibility and how much is Jesus' responsibility (see v 21, and 1 Peter 2:4-6)? In what ways have you been "kept" by the Lord as you reflect on your faith journey?
4. Verse 20 admonishes us to "pray in the Spirit." Read Romans 8:26-27. How would your prayer life be affected if you offered a prayer of intention (see back page) first thing in the morning; offering to be with Him and praying about the topics (rabbit trails) that come up?
5. What is your gut level reaction to those who are struggling with their faith? Compassion or criticism? How does v 22 admonish us to behave toward those who are struggling and change your relationships with them?
6. Close your time of discussion by reading the doxology of Jude 24-25 aloud together and sit in silence for one minute pondering the power and capabilities of Jesus your Savior.

Closing Practice: Embracing the Gospel (over time)

Verse 21 admonishes us to "keep yourselves in the love of God." Read Romans 8:38-39. How would resting in the love of God change your perspective of the trials and stresses you going through? Make a commitment to ask God to help you experience His love every day this week and share with someone how God answered your request.

(from Foundations, pg 137.)

The Prayer of Intention

1. Present the Will (Romans 12:1-2)

This is a simple prayer of presentation: “Lord, I want to be with you today. I present myself to you. I want to be awake to join you today.” Truthfully, the wording is totally up to you. The essence of the prayer is the recognition that you want to present your will to God.

2. Reminder of Who You Are in Christ (Philippians 3:7-11)

This is a simple prayer of identity. We are in Christ – fully forgiven, accepted, known, and loved. We do not earn the favor of God through being good; we are already in Christ. The best of who we are is Christ. Our life is hidden with Him. Again, the language can be modified if you prefer. Simply acknowledge who you are – because of Christ.

3. Short Inventory (Psalm 139:23-24)

This is a short opening to the work of the Spirit to retrain your character: “Lord, I know you’re still at work, and I’m a mess. I am open to your Spirit cleaning house in my soul. If I have any blind spots or besetting issues I am not aware of, Lord, bring them to light, and I will confess and repent.” You may find something that jumps into your mind; if so, pray. You may just acknowledge your openness to the ongoing transformation and move on.

4. Open to the Spirit (John 3:7-8)

The final step is a simple prayer of willingness to follow the movement of the Spirit of God throughout the day. It’s an acknowledgment that He is always working. Remember, Jesus said the Spirit is like the wind that is blowing, so let’s raise our sails and join Him. You might pray, “God, I want to be with you today. I know your Spirit is on the move, and where you go, I want to go. I don’t want to be stubborn and resist. Nor do I want to be distracted and miss it. I’m here and ready to join you today.”

This might take 30 seconds if you would like. It doesn’t have to be a long, drawn-out time in prayer. Maybe when your alarm goes off, and your feet hit the floor, pause and pray. You might find this to be a real gift to your spiritual life. It is a great way to begin to retrain in the Spirit.