



Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

Jude Series Lesson 3 – November 15, 2015

I. *The Book of Jude – A Call to Persevere*

We are called as Christians do to “contend” for the faith

1. Know the truth (Spirit-empowered, biblical knowledge);
2. Grow in Christlikeness (relationship/communion with God);
3. Unify with others on basics (the Gospel, Trinity)

II. Scripture Teaching:

4. Verses 17-21: “¹⁷ But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” ¹⁹ It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. “

Key Points:

- Jude brings his readers back to the predicted knowledge about the last days
 - Verse 17-18 points back to Paul’s words in 1 Tim. 4:1-2:
 - *1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.*
 - Jude describes the false teachers as predicted, ungodly scoffers; they are without the Spirit (non-believers).
 - Promotes minimizing the influence of the scoffers by proactively living as a follower of Christ, which ties back to “contending for the faith”.
 - In order to be a defender of the faith, you have live within that faith first.
 - We are tempted to fight against those who fight against godliness rather than clinging to Christ foremost. The best way to recognize and push back against darkness is to see and know the Light. Focus on others sins as opposed to cleaning our own house.
5. Verse 22: “²² And have mercy on those who doubt;”

Key Points:

- The church is called to have compassion on those who are in doubt (those who are deceived).
- We believe that it’s God who summons souls to himself, we are given the ability

to show His mercy and love those who don't understand it.

6. Verse 23: “²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.”

Key Points:

- The Spirit of God brings people to Jesus, which saves them from God's judgment.
- In showing mercy to people, we can be tangibly used by God in showing His compassion and kindness. By being merciful, we give them a glimpse of God's ultimate mercy.
- In trying to witness to people, we should not fall into compromise because their soul is at stake (we “fear” the outcome of their doubt). Instead, we should be fearless when showing mercy, because our faith is true.
- Zechariah 3:3-5 describes this metaphor of a stained garment as sin and everything connected with it. Unbelievers are to be judged by God and shown compassion from believers.
 - *3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. 4 The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.” Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.” 5 Then I said, “Put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by.*

III. Overriding messages to Christians:

1. Defend the faith by keeping yourself in the love of God.
2. Have mercy on those who doubt the faith or struggle within it.

IV. Small Group Questions:

1. How is following and knowing Christ a better defense of your personal faith, as opposed to fighting against false teaching/beliefs?
2. What does it practically look like to live close to God and amongst His people. How can we keep ourselves “in the love of God”?
3. What does it mean to doubt in verse 22? How can we show mercy to those who doubt?
4. What does it look like to hate “the garment stained by the flesh” (the person's sin) while showing mercy to an unbeliever?
5. Where do you personally need to build yourself up in the faith? How can the CG help with that?