

**Dig Deeper @Home – “Contending for the Faith”
Complement to sermon on 4/15/18 – “Receiving God’s Grace”**

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

If money were no object, what would you do for a job and why?

Would you rather have a rhino-sized hamster or a hamster-sized rhino? What would you do with it?

MEMORIZE – Jude 1: 20-23

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by flesh.

READ - Jude

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?

2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?

3. Jude introduces himself as servant to Jesus and brother to James. Most people believe this James would be the brother to Jesus; therefore, Jude is brother to Jesus (mentioned in Mark 6:3).
Servant literally means slave or bondservant.
 - a. What is the significance of Jude introducing himself as a slave to Jesus when he could have said brother?

 - b. What difference would it make in your life to think of yourself as a slave of Jesus instead of the more popular wording like Christian, follower, or disciple?

 - c. The title “servant of Christ” is rooted in the Old Testament and signifies a position of honor. Moses and David were both referred to as “servants of God.” What is significant about Jude calling himself a “servant of **Christ**” and not “servant of **God**”?

4. Jude refers to Cain, Balaam and Korah in v11. Look each of these people up in the Old Testament and read their stories. What do you find out about them? What is the significance of Jude comparing the false teachers to these men?

Summarize Jude in two sentences or less:

Experiential- Praying in the Holy Spirit

One of the most important works of the Spirit is to call out prayer from the depths of our heart, even if it is a prayer of lament on the one hand and prayer of protection on the other. It is God's lament we share as we look in sorrow at human wickedness and arrogance invading the church. It is God's protecting power and love we draw down as we pray by his Spirit in the midst of turmoil.

Use Jude 1: 20-21 to pray for yourselves. Use v22-23 to pray for others who are swayed by false teachers. Conclude your time of prayer by using v24-25 to praise the One who, even in the midst of danger, can keep you and your fellow believers unstumbling.

Testimony Time

"May mercy, peace and love be multiplied to you" (Jude 1:2). When is a time you received the mercy, peace or love of Christ or had it be multiplied to you? What did it look like? Feel like? How did it impact you?

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

His Mercy is More - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5EUvOnQr4Y>

Praise God for His mercy!

Gracious Spirit! Love Divine – Mennonite Hymnal #206

Use this link if you don't know the tune (the link is to a different song but uses the same tune)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQ7c1QI5668> or sing to the tune of #525 Praise to God Immortal
Praise

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Ascended Christ, through your death & resurrection and by the grace and mercy of God, all sinners, including me, can be forgiven, made new and restored in our relationship with the Father. Help us live each day, Holy Spirit, with your grace within the depths of our heart, in the fore of our minds, and on the tips of our tongue. Amen.