

**Dig Deeper @Home – “Contending for the Faith”
Complement to sermon on 4/22/18 – “Sharing God’s Grace”**

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

If you could hang out with a cartoon character, who would you choose and why?

If you could ask God one question, what would it be?

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. “Ungodly” is a favorite word of Jude’s. He first talks about the ungodly people in v4 but then really identifies them in v15 where he uses the word ungodly (or ungodliness) 4 times in a single verse. Use the following questions to analyze the ungodly in depth.
 - a. Read v12-13. What are the metaphors Jude uses to describe the ungodly?
 - b. What do we learn from these metaphors? What do they have in common?
 - c. In verse 16, Jude lists specific actions the ungodly are known for? What are they?
 - d. In verse 19, we get three descriptions for the ungodly. List them.
 - e. If someone were to look at your life, follow you around for a day, would they list you among the ungodly according to what you discovered answering the questions above? Why or why not? If married, what would your spouse say? If kids, what would they say? If a boss, what would your employers say?

4. In verses 20-21, Jude encourages the “beloved” to respond in 4 specific ways.
 - a. List the four ways
 - b. What do each of them mean?
 - c. How do practically live these out each day?
 - d. How do these 4 things fulfill the call to “contend for the faith” that Jude gives in v3?

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 unstepping.

Testimony Time

"Have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear..." (Jude 1:22-23). Share a time when you experienced this in your life...either as the one showing mercy or the one receiving mercy. What happened? What was the result? What did you learn from it?

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

Death was Arrested - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMsMiluCUUI>

Praise God for His mercy!

I Stand Amazed in the Presence – Mennonite Hymnal #540

May we all be amazed as we stand in His presence!

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.