

A BIGGER STORY

Jude

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Small Group Discussion Questions

In the letter called Jude, we see a man whose truth grid was shaped by the belief that as God, Jesus gets to call the shots in people's lives

Read and discuss

¹ Judah, slave of Jesus the Messiah, brother of James, to those who are called, the people whom God loves and whom Jesus, the Messiah, keeps safe! ² May mercy, peace and love be multiplied to you.

³ Beloved, I was doing my best to write to you about the rescue in which we share, but I found it necessary to write to you to urge you to struggle hard for the faith which was once and for all given to God's people. ⁴ Some people have sneaked in among you, it seems, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation – ungodly people, who are transforming God's grace into licentiousness, and denying the one and only master, our Lord Jesus the Messiah.

Verse 3 says 'struggle hard for the faith'

Faith is the whole revelation of God that points to one thing, one person, Jesus Christ.

*What does this phrase mean to you?

Sometimes instead of struggling FOR faith in Jesus who calls the shots, we find ourselves struggling AGAINST it

The resurrection frees me... to follow.

*The resurrection frees us from so many things. How is following a freedom?

*Where are you freed by following?

Read and discuss

⁵ I do want to remind you, even though you know it all well, that when the Lord once and for all delivered his people out of the land of Egypt, he subsequently destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ In the same way, when some of the angels did not keep to their rightful place of authority, but abandoned their own home, he kept them under conditions of darkness and in eternal chains to await the judgment of the great day. ⁷ In similar fashion, Sodom, Gomorrah and the cities round about, which had lived in gross immorality and lusted after unnatural flesh, are set before us as a pattern, undergoing the punishment of endless fire.

⁸ However, these people are behaving in the same way! They are dreaming their way into defiling the flesh, rejecting authority and cursing the Glorious Ones. ⁹ Even Michael the archangel, when disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not presume to lay against him a charge of blasphemy, but simply said, 'The Lord rebuke you.' ¹⁰ These people, however, curse anything they don't know. They are like dumb animals; there are some things they understand instinctively – but it is these very things that destroy them. ¹¹ A curse on them! They go off in the way of Cain; they give themselves over for money into Balaam's deceitful ways; they are destroyed in Korah's rebellion. ¹² These are the ones who pollute your love-feasts; they share your table without fear while simply looking after their own needs. They are waterless clouds blown along by the winds. They are fruitless autumn trees, doubly dead and uprooted. ¹³ They are stormy waves out at sea, splashing up their own shameful ways. They are wandering stars, and the deepest everlasting darkness has been kept for them in particular.

Judah reminds us that choices have consequences

Living like what we do doesn't matter, that Jesus doesn't have the right to lead you, is a choice we are free to make, but we may not be free from the consequences.

*Why is it important to have faith, not only in WHO Jesus is, but also in his RIGHT to call the shots in your life?

*Where in your life is one of these a struggle?

*When has failing in your following helped you learn and grow?

Read and discuss

²⁰ But you, beloved ones, build yourselves up in your most holy faith. Pray in the holy spirit. ²¹ Keep yourselves in the love of God, as you wait for our Lord Jesus the Messiah to show you the mercy which leads to the life of the age to come.

²² With some people who are wavering, you must show mercy. ²³ Some you must rescue, snatching them from the fire. To others you must show mercy, but with fear, hating even the clothes that have been defiled by the flesh.

²⁴ Now to the one who is able to keep you standing upright, and to present you before his glory, undefiled and joyful – ²⁵ to the one and only God, our saviour through Jesus the Messiah our Lord, be glory, majesty, power and authority before all the ages, and now, and to all the ages to come. Amen.

Jude gives us four tools to help our rebellious hearts swing back towards God

BUILD our belief

PRAY for his help

KEEP grounded in his love

WAIT for the hope ahead

*Where do you need to build up in *the faith*?

*Where have you been trying to handle something on your own and you need to ask for his help?

*How do your doubts that his leading is loving cause you to struggle to follow?

*Where are you most looking forward to his restoration of it all in the age to come?

Other people in our lives aren't letting Jesus call the shots

We may need to show mercy. We may need to rescue them. We might need to show mercy with fear.

*Why do you think there are different ways to handle those who aren't following?

*This week, when you struggle to let him call the shots, pray for him to remind you that he has earned the right to reign over you. But also, let him remind you that after we fall, we find him at the gate with arms open wide.