

# JUDE

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**NEXT  
LEVEL**  **ONLINE**

OZARK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

**SESSION 1: Know Your Identity (Jude 1-2)**

Goals and Approach

- Understand Jude in its own context.
- Read Jude within the New Testament
- Hear God's Word through Jude today...

Listening to Jude 1–2

- Healthy churches know who they are.
  - What three ways does Jude describe the church?
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Two observations:
    - These are “Israel” terms...
    - These are terms that span the scope of our relationship with God.
- Healthy churches are led by healthy leaders who know they are.
  - How Jude describes himself
    - \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_
  - Two observations:
    - Jude downplays his legitimate *credentials*.
    - Jude demonstrates precisely why...

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Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. If/when someone mentions the book of Jude, what comes to mind for you? What do you know about Jude (the man or the letter)?
2. What first hits you about the book of Jude? Read through the letter again, and write down two observations and two questions?
3. Scale of 1 to 10, how relevant does this book *seem* to your world? Why?
4. How does the way Jude speaks about the church compare to the way *you* speak about the church?
5. How does it change your view of your life story to think about God working through every part of it?
6. What can *you* take away from the way Jude introduces himself?

**SESSION 2: Guard Sound Doctrine (Jude 3-7)**

Brief Exposition of Jude 3-7

- Not the letter he wanted to write!
- Compelled to...
- Reminders from Israel's history
  - o Exodus generation –
  - o Angels who fell –
  - o Sodom and Gomorrah –

Focused Reflections

- General Observations
  - o Don't be surprised!
  - o When the fight comes to you...
- Specific Issue: CONTENT
  - o Doctrine *and* Behavior
  - o Neither legalism nor lawlessness

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Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. How often do you think about "false teaching"? Have you ever heard a Christian teaching something you thought was untrue?
2. Jude writes this letter so people will be prepared to *fight* for the faith (i.e. Christian truth). How does this hit you? Are you more likely to say "SIGN ME UP!" or not? Why?
3. Do you understand the lessons Jude draws from the Old Testament? Can you articulate them in your own words?
4. Read some other NT passages on dealing with false teaching: Acts 20: 28-31; 1 Tim 4:1-16; 6:3-5; 2 Tim 2:14-26; 2 Cor 11:5-15; Gal 1:6-9; 4:17-20; 6:12-16; Phil 3:1-14; Col 2:6-8, 16-23; 2 Pet 3:1-18; 1 John 4:1-6. How are these similar and/or different from Jude? What important things do we learn that support or fill out Jude?

### **SESSION 3: Submit to Proper Authority (Jude 8-11)**

#### Welcome and Review

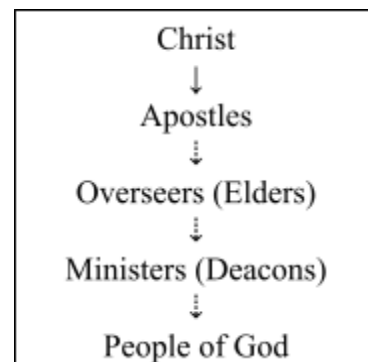
- Jude in context... and today!
- Evaluating false teaching: content, *authority*, motivation.
- Hear God's Word through Jude today...

#### Authority in Jude

- "On the strength of their dreams"
- "Pollute... reject... blaspheme..."
- Once again, not new (same as in OT)
  - o Cain (Genesis 4-11) –
  - o Balaam (Numbers 22-25) –
  - o Korah's Rebellion (Numbers 16)

#### Authority Elsewhere in the New Testament

- Specifically with respect to prophecy/teaching (1 Cor 14:29; 1 Thess 5:19-22; 1 Jn 4:1-3)
- More generally, NT church authority structure:
- What about hierarchy? Submission?



#### Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. Do you tend to see "submission" as something to embrace or avoid? How about when you are commanded to be the one who submits?
2. What have you grown up thinking about the benefits and dangers of tradition?
3. Have you ever (maybe) heard from God in a dream? How much stock do you put in such forms of communication? Why?
4. Do you understand the lessons Jude draws from the Old Testament? Can you articulate them in your own words?
5. How does what you saw in the video compare to how you have thought about authority in the church?
6. If you are a church leader, how well is your church living out the New Testament vision? What issues or blind spots may need to be addressed?

**SESSION 4: Seek the Good of Others (Jude 12-19)**

Unpacking Jude 12-19

- Description (12-13)
- Prophecy (14-15)
- Description (16)
- Prophecy (17-18)
- Description (19)

Criterion for Evaluating False Teaching

- Content
- Authority
- *Motivation*

Question to Consider

- Who are you listening to?
- Who is your leadership serving?
- Am I worth trusting?

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Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. When you first read Jude, what did you make of his denunciations of these teachers? Do you find his approach a little much or entirely appropriate? How does understanding his images and claims impact your assessment of what he is doing?
2. What do you make of Jude quoting from non-inspired sources? What can we learn from this?
3. Should we talk to people like this? If not, why not? If so, when?
4. How can we discern the motives of those who are in (or seeking) positions of spiritual leadership?
5. How would you answer the three questions asked at the end of the video?

**SESSION 5: Rebuke False Teachers (Jude 3-23)**

What To Do with False Teachers

- First, think through your (biblical) options
  - Instruction
  - Admonition
  - Correction
  - Rebuke
  - Removal
  - Denounce
- Then ask critical questions:
  - Who are *they*?
    - Teaching (content/results, authority, motivation)
    - Appeal (How likely are they to gain a hearing?)
    - Proximity (How close to your realm of responsibility?)
  - Who are *you*?
    - Credibility
    - Responsibility
    - Relationship
- All the while, seek what you can't do without!
  - Wisdom
  - Boldness
  - Mercy

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. When you have seen (or heard) questionable teaching in the past, how have you responded? Why?

2. What are some doctrinal issues that you consider absolutely essential? What are some issues that you think are secondary but still very important? How do you distinguish such things?
3. Are you more prone to go too hard or too soft in conflict situations? What have you learned (in life) about how to counteract your natural tendencies when needed?
4. What would you tweak (add, remove, or change) about the framework suggested in the video?
5. Is the Holy Spirit stirring in you any particular ways you need to live out this teaching?

**SESSION 6: Stay the Course (Jude 17-23)**

Framing Jude's Final Instructions

- Standard but not unintentional
- Wisdom for living between the comings...

How to Stay the Course

- Remember
  - Temptation:
  - Antidote: Apostles and Prophets (the Bible!)
- Keep
  - Temptation: Quit.
  - Antidote: Don't! Instead...
    - Building up
    - Praying
    - Waiting
- Care
  - Temptation: Isolate.
  - Antidote:
    - Temptation: Join in
    - Antidote:

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Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. If you were talking to some young people who you would not see in a long time, what sort of "final instructions" would you give before saying goodbye? Why these and not others?

2. Choose another New Testament letter or two, and compare the final instructions to Jude. What is similar and different?
3. Which of the “temptations” is most pressing for you right now? How does Jude help?
4. What from Jude’s final instructions resonates most deeply with you?

**SESSION 7: Cultivate Articulate Praise (Jude 24-25)**

Welcome and Review

Hearing Jude 24-25

- Leaders must cultivate worship by practicing \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Jude within the NT doxologies
  - Elements: name, ascriptions of praise, time, response
- Looking again at Jude's doxology
  - "To him who is *able to keep...*"
  - "the *only God...*"
- We must all think true thoughts about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - We cannot fake genuine doxology.
  - Psalm 10:4 – make room in your thoughts for God!

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Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What do you think you think about most? Whatever it is, why is it atop the list?
2. If you could do a thought audit and see what actually occupies your mental attention over the course of a week or month, what might you be surprised to see on the list of most frequent themes?
3. Read through some of doxologies elsewhere in the New Testament: Romans 11:33-36; 16:25-27; Ephesians 3:20-21; 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:15-16; Hebrews 13:20-21; Revelation 1:4-6; 4:11; 5:9-13. What sorts of similarities and differences do you notice?
4. If you were going to commit one New Testament doxology to memory, which would it be? Why? Will you do this? Why or why not?
5. What stands out to you from Jude's doxology as particularly relevant to your church today?
6. How well are you making room in your thoughts for God?

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