

STUDY NOTES

POSTCARDS: JUDE

A series at New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message "Fighting for Faith in a Faithless World" on 5/19/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: JUDE (read throughout)

PERVERTING THE GOSPEL

Read Jude 1-4. There were two things going wrong here: immoral living and a denial of truth. These people wanted to believe what they wanted to believe which allowed them live any way they wanted to live. They are trying to take advantage of God's grace. When we pervert grace into a license to sin, we cease to obey Jesus and essentially deny that He is our master and Lord. We deny his rightful authority over us.

- *Why is it so tempting to use Jesus's forgiveness of sins to live with a license to sin?*

Jude compares those living like this to rebellious people in the Old Testament. He says that their rebellion will lead to their own demise. **Read Jude 10-13.** Not only is God the final judge in the end, but sin leads to unhealthy consequences now.

- *What is your initial reaction to hearing how big of a deal sin is to Jesus?*

LESSONS FROM JUDE

There are some lessons that we can take away from Jude's teaching.

1) Jesus takes his gospel seriously. We can't pretend that we trust Jesus with our afterlife but not submit to him in this life. What we do today says a lot about what we believe.

2) Jesus takes the purity of his church seriously. Jude's concern is that this false gospel would spread throughout the church. We find it easier to sin when others are doing it.

3) Gospel is full of grace because we do sin, but not so that we can sin. Jesus didn't come to earth, live a perfect life, and then die on the cross so that we could live any way we want. He did all of that because we were already living the way we wanted.

- *How does what you do show a lot about what you believe?*
- *How can we take the sin of others seriously without dismissing the grace of Jesus in that person's life?*

FIGHTING FOR OUR FAITH

The main command that Jude gives us is to "keep yourself in God's love." He doesn't say this because we are in danger of losing God's love. He says it because we are constantly in danger of forgetting God's love. We can remember God's love in three ways.

1) Building yourself up in your faith. In other words, constantly preach the Good News of Jesus to yourself.

2) Praying in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells in us and pray shows our dependence on him.

3) Eagerly awaiting your eternal inheritance in the Kingdom. Incredible joy waits for us after we die.

- *Why do you think that so much of what Jude talks about is just remembering God in our lives?*
- *If you constantly remember that Jesus is in your life how would you act differently?*
- *Pray with each other to remember God's love this week.*