CONTENDING IN LOVE

JUDE 1–3
CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – OCTOBER 25, 2026

SCRIPTURE READING

[1] Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James,
To those who are called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:
[2] May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.
[3] Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

Jude 1–3 (English Standard Version)

REACH ONE

REACH ONE - ***Getting to know people and helping people get to know Jesus.***

As we continue growing in the habit of intentionally going out of our way to see people, carve out some discussion time to let group members share how they took a step toward others during the past week. It does not matter if it was small (e.g., learning their barista's name) or large (e.g., getting to share Jesus with someone), celebrating wins like these can go a long way into making this part of our daily rhythms and lifestyle.

SERMON RECAP

The word that summarizes the message of Jude is "contend." Two ways to contend:

- With His love in us.
- With His love for others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. Read Jude 1–3 aloud as a group. Before interpreting or applying the passage, share observations about it.

    a. Who is the author of this letter, and how does he describe himself?
    b. To whom is Jude writing, and what three descriptions does he use for them?
    c. What is the author's hope for those to whom he writes?
    d. What is the author's stated purpose for writing this letter?

2. How would you explain or summarize today's passage in your own words?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Reread Jude 1b. What are the meaning, significance, and implications of being –

    a. Called by God
    b. Beloved in God the Father
    c. Kept for Jesus Christ

2. In the New Testament's original Greek language, the word for "contend" is epagōnizomai:

    d. The second part of the word – agonizomai –means to fight for something.
    e. The first part (prefix) of the word – ep – serves as an intensifier.

    What does this teach us about the nature and seriousness of contending for the faith?

3. People often fight through anger, arguments, and personal attacks. How should experiencing God's love change the way we respond to people who disagree with our beliefs?

4. Read Jude 22–23. How does the text call those who are beloved of Jesus to contend for the faith of others?

5. What stands out to you most as you read and consider today's passage? What other questions about it do you have?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Reread Jude 1–2. In describing himself as a servant of Jesus Christ and believers as beloved, Jude is saying—

    - I am captured by the love of God the Son.
    - I belong to Jesus.
    - I submit to Jesus.
    - I trust Jesus.
    - I am called by the love of God the Spirit.
    - I am engulfed in the love of God the Father.
    - I am kept for ever-lasting love.

    Now consider the following questions:

    a. Of all the truths–that we belong to Jesus, are loved by the Father, are called by the Spirit, and are kept for eternity–which one do you most need to remember in this season of your life? Why?

    b. Are you called, beloved, and kept for Jesus Christ? If so, then as a follower of Jesus, do you truly believe that these descriptions define you and apply personally to your life? How does believing these truths affect the way you live?

    c. If you are *not* a follower of Jesus, God invites you to believe that He loves you so much that He came in the person of Jesus to die on the cross for your sin, and then He rose from the dead so that you might receive eternal life. Anyone who turns

from sin and trusts in Jesus and His sufficient sacrifice for their sins receives forgiveness and eternal life. Will you trust in Jesus as your Savior and Lord today?

2. Reread Jude 2 alongside Jude 22–23 and Lam 3:22–23. To people who are called, loved, and kept, Jude is effectively saying, *"May mercy (the compassion of God), peace (rest and confidence in God), and love (unconditional love) be <u>multiplied</u> to you."* These blessings are meant to shape how we contend for the faith (Jude 3), both in our own lives and in our relationships with others.
   How does being called, loved, and kept for Jesus Christ compel and enable followers of Jesus to share His Truth, in love, with others?

3. Consider the following ways to contend for the faith this week:

   a. Every day this week, spend at least five minutes at the beginning and end of each day meditating on God's love for you (cf. Psalm 92:1–2).

   b. Sometime this week, share the gospel (i.e., the good news of God's love in Jesus) with someone who does not know Jesus.