THE GREATEST THREAT TO AMERICAN CHRISITIANITY

JUDE 3-4
CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – NOVEMBER 1, 2026

SCRIPTURE READING

[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. [4] For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Jude 3-4 ESV

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 towards others during the past week. It doesn't matter if it's small (learning their barista's name) or big (getting to share Jesus with someone), celebrating little wins like these can go a long way into making this part of our daily rhythms and lifestyle.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

As you leave your house in the morning, what is the largest threat to the success of your day?

SERMON RECAP

- As Christians we have responsibilities:
  - Know the faith.
  - Guard the faith.
- The greatest threat to Christianity in our culture is not anti-Christian hostility *outside* the Church. It's pseudo-Christian ideology *inside* the church.
- False teaching generally comes in three forms:
  - SUBTRACTION: What biblical truth is being denied or minimized?
  - ADDITION: What is being added to the faith that God hasn't required?
  - DIVISION: How is this ideology undermining Christian unity or human dignity?
- Three examples of distortions to faith:
  - Anything Goes Christianity: our personal desires replace Jesus as Master and Lord.
  - Nationalistic Christianity: our political loyalties replace Jesus as Master and Lord.
  - Consumer Christianity: our personal preferences replace Jesus as Master and Lord.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does this passage say?

1) Read Jude 3-4 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passages or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
   - What key words or phrases do you notice in verse 3?
   - What kinds of people are described in verse 4?

- How do verses 3 and 4 relate to one another?
- How would you summarize Jude 3-4 in your own words?

Interpretation: What does this passage mean?

1) Know the Faith – (Jude 3, 2 Timothy 4:2-3, and 1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
   - What do we know about our common, shared salvation?
   - How can our testimony be different but our story be the same as other believers?
   - How would you contrast YOUR faith with THE faith?
   - How is the authoritative and timeless gospel central to THE faith and YOUR faith?
2) Guard the Faith (Jude 4 and 1 Timothy 3:14-15)
   - What are some ways that the threat to Christianity is greater from the inside than from outside from those who have "crept in unnoticed?"
   - How does subtraction (denying and minimizing) weaken the Church?
   - How does addition (adding non-God requirements) diminish the Church?
   - How does division (undermining unity or dignity) destroy the Church?
3) Distortions to Faith (Jude 3-4, Isaiah 5:20, and Matthew 16:24-25)
   - How can "Anything Goes Christianity" – allowing the surrounding culture to be baptized in Christian language – add non-God requirements to the Church?
   - How can "Nationalistic Christianity" – confusing loyalty to Jesus with loyalty to a particular vision of America – undermine the unity or dignity of the Church?
   - How can "Consumer Christianity" – wanting the benefits of following Jesus without the demands of following Jesus – deny or minimize the gospel?
   - What scriptural passages can you cite that refute these distortions to faith?

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

1) Grow Your Faith!
   - How can you learn more about your faith to recognize any version of Christianity that replaces Jesus as Master and Lord?
   - What questions or uncertainties do you have about your own faith?
   - How are you allowing God's Word to shape what you believe rather than reshaping what you believe to fit the life you already want to live?
   - What could you do this week to learn more about your own faith?
2) Protect Your Faith!
   - How can you guard your faith against any version of Christianity that replaces Jesus as Master and Lord?
   - Where are you confronted with non-belief, how often does it happen, and how do you react?
   - How could your faith serve as a beacon to draw others to the One, True, Only God?
   - What could you do this week to better protect your own faith?
3) Defend Your Faith!
   - How can you contend (fervently fight) for your faith when you are confronted with any version of Christianity that replaces Jesus as Master and Lord?
   - What are the biggest challenges you face to your faith – are they outside you, inside you, or both?
   - How can the "whole armor of God" (see Ephesians 6:10-18) aid you in your faith defense?
   - How could you be better prepared this week to defend your own faith?