

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 27, 2009

Passage: Jude 24-25

Memory Passage: Jude 24-25

**TODAY:** From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jude 24-25.** Verses 24 and 25 are what most people call a doxology. They are found both inside and outside scripture in Jewish and Greco-Roman literature of Jude's day. They are praise and ascriptions of worth to God. They often come at the end of a sermon and used to sum up and bring the focus back to God. Here Jude uses a doxology or maybe better said a doxology flows out of him at the end of this message.

(b) Take a moment and read through the whole book and then read the doxology again. How does the way Jude begins and ends his letter teach about what is most important? How does this help us to withstand those times of injustice that Jude is talking about?

(c) Skim through Jude and write out all the things that God is doing or going to do or has done. If you only had the book of Jude what would you be able to say about the character of God? How is this encouraging to you?

(d) *Family:* Read Jude 24-25. For your family time read through the book of Jude. Then, do letter (c) as a family. Share the attribute or action that most sticks out to you. Close with prayer.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jude 24.** There are two things in Jude 24 that God is described as being able to do: to keep us from stumbling and to present us blameless before His presence. We are going to look at what it means that "He keeps us from stumbling."

(b) Something that can't be seen in English is that Jude uses a different word for "keep" here in verse 24. Look through the book and note all verses where he mentions "keep" or "keeping" or something like that. Describe what these verses talk about.

(c) A good question to ask is, "what kind of stumbling are we kept from?" Look up 2Peter 2:5; 3:17. ("preserved" and "take care": ESV) How is this word used in these two passages? What kind of destruction is described in each of these? Thinking about what Jude has been discussing throughout the epistle and the next statement he is about to make, what do you think Jude means in verse 24?

(d) How is this encouraging remembering the previous verse? How does this eliminate our excuses for showing mercy, helping others? How does this encourage us in times of our own doubting?

(e) *Family:* Read Jude 24. Jude ascribes to God the ability to keep us from stumbling. Which means that he is able to preserve us from failing in the final judgment. Why is it so important for us to know that we are secure in God? What does this verse tell us about God's desire to help us if we sin or mess up? Give a prayer of thanks to God for His mercy and grace toward us.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jude 24.** The second thing that God is able to do here is "to cause us to stand, rejoicing, without blemish before His glorious presence." (NET) God is not only merciful to keep us from falling, but He will cause us to stand! What kind of state will we stand in before God?

(b) Take a second and reflect on the fact the God is not just concerned about keeping you from falling, but He is willing and able to make you stand blameless before Him! What does this verse do for all those times that we fall into sin and feel as though God would never take us back? Is He requiring anything in these verses/who is doing all the work?

(c) How is this act of "causing us to stand" described in Ephesians 5:25-27? How are we presented blameless before God? So, God is not only doing this but He is doing it with great joy. Note that it is His pleasure to cleanse us because He loves us.

(d) *Family:* Read Jude 24. Who is it that is doing all the stuff in this verse? What role do we play in presenting ourselves blameless before God? Read Ephesians 2:1-8. What has God done for us? How are we to respond? What does it mean to respond in this way? Give a prayer of thanks to God for the joy that comes with His salvation.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jude 25.** After describing what God is doing and will do, Jude describes who He is and how He has done it. It is interesting that Jude describes God the Father as "our Savior". It is used only seven times in the New Testament to describe the Father. According to this verse, why might this be the case?

(b) How does this verse emphasize both the unity and distinctiveness between God the Father and God the Son? Why is it important for us to not muddle the distinctions? Why is it important for us to not lose the unity?

(c) How does this verse reemphasize the exclusivity of salvation through Christ alone? To call someone Lord would mean to see them as either God or at least in authority over you. Why is this important for us not to separate what Christ has accomplished (salvation) and who He is (Lord)?

(d) *Family*: Read Jude 25. What do we learn about God's character in this verse? How is it that He is our Savior? How has Jesus saved us (see verses 1, 5, 9, 14)? What does this mean for us?

#### **DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Jude 25. Merry Christmas!!** In this last section we will look at the ascriptions given by Jude to God. What is it that Jude means when he talks about the Glory of God (Isaiah 6:1-5)? What kind of reaction are we to have to God's Glory?

(b) How is God's majesty described in Hebrews 1:3-4 and 8:1-2? How does His Kingship give Him the sovereign right to rule? Why would this be important? And His authority is talked about in Matthew 28:18. What does this say about His authority/sovereignty to do and act as He pleases?

(c) Without power, authority and glory mean nothing. God would be like the wizard in Oz. What kind of power is ascribed to God in Colossians 1:15-20? Is anything outside of His control?

(d) Finally, the duration of all this has been from "before all ages, now and forevermore!" There will be no end to God's absolute, perfect and rightful rule. Reflecting upon the purpose of the letter in addressing the false teachers why is this important to state? How is this helpful for you in your place in life?

(e) *Family*: Read Jude 25. What is it that Jude means when he talks about the Glory of God (Isaiah 6:1-5)? What kind of reaction are we to have to God's Glory? How is Isaiah a good example of how we should see ourselves in light of God? But what is the good news that Jude has already told us in verse 24? Pray for those who might not know this truth and ask God to work in them.

#### **DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* What has God been teaching you this week? These verses from Jude come from an overflow of praise and adoration to God. Have you felt like doing this lately? What is it that causes your heart to overflow with praise toward God? Find some time today to just praise God out loud either in prayer or song.

**DATE:** December 27, 2009

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### ***A Contending God***

*"To Him...be glory...now and forever"*