

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 6, 2009

Passage: Jude 5-16

Memory Passage: Jude 5

**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 5.** Jude is reminding his readers of something that they once fully knew. What is it that Jude is reminding his readers? What points do you think Jude is trying to get across in 5-16?

(b) The story of God bringing the Israelites out of Egypt is an important story in Christian history (see Exodus 1-15 for the story). How does the Exodus inform us about the character of God? What are some ways in which we experience God's mercy in similar ways?

(c) 1 Corinthians 10:1-5 relates the story of the Exodus with a similar warning as Jude. What are Paul's and Jude's warning about confusing physical blessing with eternal safety? Do you find yourself in a similar circumstance, confusing physical blessing with eternal salvation? How so?

(d) Read Luke 12:16-21. What does this teach us about how we are supposed to live? How does this sort of life display faith in God's promises of salvation?

(e) *Family:* Read Jude 5. Can anyone give a short retelling of God's leading of the Israelites out of Egypt? How does the Exodus teach us about the character of God? What are some ways in which we experience God's mercy in similar ways? Why is it that like the Israelites, some people confuse physical blessings with eternal security? Pray that you would live a life of faith and that God would increase your faith in Him.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jude 6-7.** Jude uses another Old Testament example here to relate the point he is trying to make. For this he draws upon both Genesis 6 and 1 Enoch (an apocryphal book). What does Genesis 6:1-4 say about this event? According to Jude, what is the great sin of these angels?

(b) What does Jude say that the resulting punishment for these angels was and is going to be? The comparison is now made with the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Specifically, Jude points to the active involvement in sexual immorality and unnatural desires (read homosexual desires; Genesis 19:4, 5). How does what the angels did and what Sodom and Gomorrah did both exhibit leaving of "their proper dwelling"?

(c) What does this tell us about the nature of homosexual pursuits and even more so, sexual immorality? Jude's focus in this section seems to have to do with the rebellion of authority against God's design for the pursuit of self-indulgence. How can we rebel against God's design/commands for our own pleasures?

(d) *Family:* Read Jude 6-7. What did the angels do that was wrong? Why was this so wrong? What does this passage tell us about the importance of God's design and plans for us? How can you live according to God's design for your life (Proverbs 3:5-6)? Pray for strength to trust even when it is hard.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jude 8-10.** Jude turns his example now into a comparison of the type of people he mentioned in verse 4. How are these people like the Israelites? The angels? Sodom and Gomorrah? List the four things that Jude describes these people are doing in verses 8 and 10.

(b) In verse 9, Jude compares these people to Michael the archangel (probably found in the *Testament of Moses*, but is lost to us). What comparison is he making between Michael's proper actions and these people he is describing? What can we learn from Michael's actions about respect, the devil, and authority?

(c) What two things are these people charged with blaspheming? Why do people slander or denigrate supernatural that they do not understand? How should we respond to things that might seem supernatural or miraculous (Philippians 1:9-10; Hebrews 5:12-14)? What are some practical things that you can be doing to bring yourself into maturity?

(d) *Family:* Read Jude 8-10. Blaspheme can also mean "to slander". Why is it that speaking badly about someone is often associated with rebelling against authority? How are we supposed to live under authority (1 Peter 2:13-17)? Who are you under authority of? Who are you ultimately under the authority of? How does serving lesser authority honor God? Pray that you would rightly see respecting earthly authority as respecting God's authority.

**DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Jude 11-13.** Woe! Bible trivia day for Jude. In a very short summary, who or what is Jude referring to in verse 11 (if you have no idea: Genesis 4:5-8; Numbers 22:5-7; Numbers 16:1-3,31-35)? Why would these three Old Testament stories be good examples for the people that he is describing?

(b) In verses 12 and 13, Jude begins to give us a list of things that these people are like. Compile the list of comparisons. What theme do all of these comparisons have in common? What kind of people does this depict?

(c) Christ said that there would be tares among the wheat when it came to His church. What picture do we have of the people that Jesus was talking about in these verses? What would someone who is the opposite of these people look like? How do you compare? Take some time and ask yourself the honest question of how you compare. Ask God to reveal any ways that you might be like these people.

(d) *Family:* Read Jude 11-13. Bible trivia today for Jude. Who can tell me what he means by “they walked the way of Cain” (Genesis 4:5-8)? What was Balaam’s error (Numbers 22:5-7)? Who was Korah and why did he rebel (Numbers 16:1-3, 31-35)? Why would these three Old Testament stories be a good example for the people that Jude is talking about? Ask God today to show you if you resemble any of these characters, then ask the Lord to change you to be more like Him.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Jude 14-16.** 1 Enoch shows up again in this last section, as we get a direct quote from it (1 Enoch 1.9). Who was Enoch in the Bible and why was he so unique (Genesis 5:18-24)? What two things does Jude say that the Lord is going to do at His return?

(b) Why is this important for the church to remember? What does the fact that God is going to convict all the ungodly, even those who are churchgoers mean for us?

(c) Jude gives a few final descriptions of these people. Why is it that following our own sinful desires often makes us grumble and fault-finders in others? When we begin to find ourselves acting in such a way, what are we in fact doing according to this passage? When you give compliments or engage in conversations do you have the purpose in mind to gain something?

(d) *Family:* Read Jude 14-16. Why is it that following our own sinful desires often makes us grumble and fault-finders in others? When we begin to find ourselves acting in such a way, what are we in fact doing according to this passage? How should we be acting? Ask God to give you contentment with where God has you and where God is leading you.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Jude 14-16. Thinking about the lesson and the passage for this week, do you resemble these people in any way? Also, do you feel the weight of judgment that is going to happen to these people? How should the church respond to such people? Why is it important for us to practice church discipline in light of this passage? Ask God to show you if you fall into any of these patterns that are talked about. Ask Him to convict and to give you a repentant heart.

**DATE:** December 6, 2009

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***Contending with the Faith***  
*“waterless clouds, swept along by winds”*