

S T U D Y G U I D E



CONTENDING
for the FAITH

The Book of Jude

JASON HELOPOULOS

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Jason Helopoulos



LIGONIER MINISTRIES

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421 Ligonier Court, Sanford, FL 32771

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Introduction

Though brief enough to read in just a few minutes, Jude's epistle offers profound insights that are as relevant today as they were in his time. Confronted with false teaching and ungodliness, Jude sounded an alarm for the church, and his epistle provides practical lessons for standing firm in the truth and confronting falsehood without losing sight of mercy and love. In this teaching series, Rev. Jason Helopoulos explores the urgent call to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints.

This study guide is a companion to the video teaching series. Whether you are using the DVDs, streaming the videos on Ligonier.org, or going through the course in Ligonier Connect, this resource is designed to help you make the most of the learning experience. For each message in the series, there is a corresponding lesson in this guide. Here is what you will find in each lesson:

INTRODUCTION	<p>The introduction is a brief paragraph that summarizes the content covered in the lecture and considered in the study guide lesson.</p> <p>How to use: Use the introduction to each lesson to get a sense of the big picture before watching the video. Refer to these statements as you work through the study guide to remind yourself of what you have already covered and where you are headed.</p>
LEARNING GOALS	<p>The learning goals are the knowledge and skills the study guide lesson will endeavor to equip you with as you work through the lecture content.</p> <p>How to use: Familiarize yourself with the goals of each lesson before engaging with its contents. Keeping the overall purpose in mind as you watch each video and reflect on or discuss the questions will help you get the most out of each lesson.</p>
KEY IDEAS	<p>The key ideas are the major points or takeaways from the lecture.</p> <p>How to use: Use these ideas to prepare yourself for each lesson and to review previous lessons. They describe specifically the knowledge each lecture is communicating.</p>

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	<p>The questions are the guided reflection and/or discussion component of the lesson that are intended to help you prepare for, process, and organize what you are learning.</p> <p>How to use: Reflect on individually or discuss in a group the questions in the order in which they appear in the lesson. The time stamps in the right margin indicate where the answers to questions during the video can be found.</p>
PRAYER	<p>The prayer section offers suggestions for how to close the lesson in prayer with respect to what was taught in the lecture.</p> <p>How to use: Consider using each lesson's prayer section as a guide to personal or group prayer. These sections follow the ACTS prayer model, which you can learn more about in R.C. Sproul's Crucial Questions booklet <i>Does Prayer Change Things?</i> This helpful guide is available as a free e-book at Ligonier.org.</p>
REVIEW QUIZ	<p>The review quiz is a set of six multiple-choice questions that appears at the end of each lesson.</p> <p>How to use: Use each quiz to check your comprehension and memory of the major points covered in each lecture. It will be most beneficial to your learning if you take a lesson's quiz either sometime between lessons or just before you begin the next lesson in the study guide.</p>
ANSWER KEY	<p>The answer key provides explanations for the reflection and discussion questions and answers to the multiple-choice questions in the review quiz.</p> <p>How to use: Use the answer key to check your own answers or when you do not know the answer. Note: Do not give in too quickly; struggling for a few moments to recall an answer reinforces it in your mind.</p>

Study Schedules

The following table suggests four plans for working through the *Contending for the Faith* video teaching series and this companion study guide. Whether you are going through this series on your own or with a group, these schedules should help you plan your study path.

	Extended 9-Week Plan	Standard 7-Week Plan	Abbreviated 5-Week Plan	Intensive 3-Week Plan
Week	Lesson			
1	*	1	1	1–2
2	1	2	2–3	3–5
3	2	3	4	6–7
4	3	4	5–6	
5	4	5	7	
6	5	6		
7	6	7		
8	7			
9	*			

* For these weeks, rather than completing lessons, spend your time discussing and praying about your learning goals for the study (the first week) and the most valuable takeaways from the study (the last week).

Jude, a Servant of Christ

INTRODUCTION

The book of Jude is easy to miss, being only a chapter long, but a closer glance at the rich content of this letter reveals that it has an important place in Scripture. In this lesson, Rev. Jason Helopoulos introduces Jude, explaining about the letter's author, introduction, and occasion.

LEARNING GOALS

When you have finished this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the character and importance of the letter of Jude in the New Testament
- Describe the significance of Jude's opening
- Understand why God calls and loves His chosen people

KEY IDEAS

- Jude defines himself in relation to Christ.
- In his letter, Jude seeks to expose false teaching in the church.
- God loves His people absolutely.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

What Do You Think?

Take a moment to answer the following questions. They will prepare you for the lecture.

- How well do you know the book of Jude? How can studying small books of Scripture be spiritually beneficial?

- Why does God love you? How can Christians be assured of His love?

Scripture Reading

For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

—Deuteronomy 7:6–8

- Why did God choose Israel? What did Israel have to offer?

During the Video

Answer the following questions while you watch the video. They will guide you through the lecture.

A Slave of Christ

0:00–11:23

- What is the central message of Jude?
- Why is being a “slave of Christ” a good thing?
- How does the present culture define self-worth? How is this different from Jude’s perspective?

Beloved by God

11:23–23:36

- Are Christians “those who search”? Why or why not?
- Why does God love you? How much does He love you?

After the Video

Answer the following questions after you have finished the lecture. They will help you identify and summarize the major points.

- Is Jude the brother of Jesus? Why does he call himself a servant of Christ?

If you are in a group, ask the members why identity is an important part of the Christian life. Ask: How is it important for the church?

- Why does God call people? How does His call connect the New and Old Testament people of God?

If you are in a group, have the members share something about their calling and what that shows about God's character.

- What two words in the first verse of Jude give Christians worth and purpose? What do they mean practically?

If you are in a group, have the members discuss how they can live out these two words in their daily lives. Ask: What are some examples of living out these principles?

PRAYER

Commit what you have learned from God's Word in this lesson to prayer.

- Praise God for His wisdom that is on display in all of Scripture.
- Confess ways that you have defined yourself by the world and not by Christ.
- Thank God for His great and abounding love that He shows to you by grace.
- Ask God to keep you in Christ Jesus until His return.

REVIEW QUIZ

Use these multiple-choice questions to measure what you learned from this lesson.

1. What does Jude call himself in relation to James?
 - a. Brother
 - b. Son
 - c. Disciple
 - d. Father
2. What Greek word do most translations (including the ESV) translate as “servant”?
 - a. *Dynamai*
 - b. *Didomi*
 - c. *Doulos*
 - d. *Dei*
3. What was the “great error” committed in the garden of Eden?
 - a. Adam’s obeying Eve
 - b. Eve’s talking to the serpent
 - c. Adam and Eve’s being the deciders of good and evil
 - d. Adam and Eve’s eating from the Tree of Life
4. What is Jude’s favorite designation for the false teachers whom he writes about?
 - a. Blasphemers
 - b. Godless
 - c. Twice dead
 - d. Grumblers
5. Christians are the active party in salvation.
 - a. True
 - b. False
6. Geerhardus Vos said, “The best proof that He will never cease to love us lies in” what?
 - a. “that He always has”
 - b. “that He promised to”
 - c. “that He never stopped”
 - d. “that He never began”

Answer Key—Jude, a Servant of Christ

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

What Do You Think?

These are personal questions. The answers should be based on your own knowledge and experience.

Scripture Reading

- Why did God choose Israel? What did Israel have to offer?

God chose the people of Israel purely out of His love for them. They did not have any quality that itself was pleasing to God or even something to boast about to other people, but God chose them out of grace alone, and He was remaining faithful as the God who covenantally devoted Himself to them.

During the Video

A Slave of Christ

- What is the central message of Jude?

Jude's central message is the idea of "contending for the faith." This informs the rest of the book of Jude and this teaching series, which will describe what it looks like to contend for the faith as described by Jude.

- Why is being a "slave of Christ" a good thing?

Being a slave of Christ is good because it shows that one has been brought out of sin and death and into the family of God, and because Jesus is not a domineering but a loving authority over all those in His care.

- How does the present culture define self-worth? How is this different from Jude's perspective?

The present culture defines self-worth by subjective feelings, inwardness, and being self-consumed. On the contrary, Jude identifies himself as being in Christ. As Rev. Helopoulos observes, "He's Christ-absorbed" and "Christ-obsessed."

Beloved by God

- Are Christians "those who search"? Why or why not?

Christians are primarily identified not by their searching after God but by God's searching after them. Jude says that we are "those who are called" by God. Paul

also writes that God's calling "depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy" (Rom. 9:16).

- Why does God love you? How much does He love you?

Rev. Helopoulos answers that God loves you simply because He loves you. He sovereignly chose to unconditionally love His people from eternity. Jude calls his Christian brothers and sisters "beloved in God the Father" (v. 1), which communicates, by the preposition "in," that believers are surrounded by the love of God and dwell in it continually.

After the Video

- Is Jude the brother of Jesus? Why does he call himself a servant of Christ?

Although Jude does not identify himself as such, he is the brother of James and listed alongside him as "Judas" the brother of Jesus (Mark 6:3). Jude designates himself as a servant of Christ because what matters is not biological relationship but rather a salvific relationship with the Lord. Because of this, Jude highlights the importance of a salvific relationship by identifying himself as Jesus' servant rather than His brother.

- Why does God call people? How does His call connect the New and Old Testament people of God?

God calls people for His own sake—that is, out of His love for them. This is why Jude calls his fellow believers "beloved in God the Father" (v. 1). The idea behind this phrase is not a new reality but harks back to Deuteronomy 7, which similarly calls Israel "a people holy to the LORD your God," which is the case "because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers" (Deut. 7:6–8). Both passages show that the status of believers in both testaments is based not on anything inherent in them but instead on God's overflowing love for them.

- What two words in the first verse of Jude give Christians worth and purpose? What do they mean practically?

Two crucial words in the opening of Jude are "beloved" and "kept." The title "beloved" shows the value of the Christians and the church as those loved, and the title "kept" shows that this value will not diminish but come to completion. This is practically significant because God's love and providence help believers face every day, even when it seems as though everything is against them.

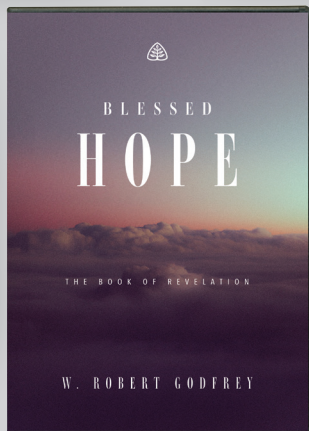
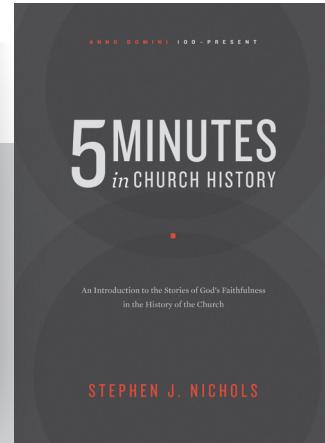
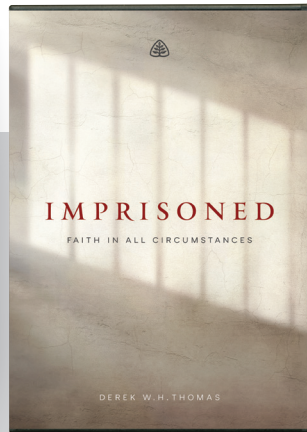
REVIEW QUIZ

1. A.

Jude calls himself the brother of James in the first verse of his letter. While the Gospels talk about a Judas who is "the son of James" in Acts 1:13, this is not the author of the book of Jude. Instead, the author is likely the Judas mentioned in Mark 6:3 among the brothers of Jesus.

2. **C.**
Most translations render the Greek word doulos as “servant.” Although it could mean “slave,” the translation “servant” best carries the sense of the word in today’s context.
3. **C.**
The great error of Adam and Eve in the garden was the fact that they made themselves rather than God the judges of good and evil. The issue with the first sin was a cosmic rebellion against the ultimate Lawgiver.
4. **B.**
While Jude uses a variety of names to describe the false teachers, his favorite term is “godless” (or “ungodly”), which he uses many times throughout his letter (see, for example, vv. 4, 15, 18).
5. **B.**
Christians are not the active party in salvation but are merely the passive recipients of God’s free grace to them. This is why Paul writes that “by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8).
6. **D.**
Vos shows that God’s love must never cease because “He never began” to love us in the first place. Because God is eternal, He never began to love His people, since He eternally and always is loving them.

We want to see men and women around the world connect
the deep truths of the Christian faith to everyday life.



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