

JUDE

STUDENT LESSON

Lesson 3

CLEAR FAITH IN A BLURRY WORLD

FIRM
FOUNDATION

Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Open It

Icebreaker

1. **Who is the worst teacher you ever had? What made that teacher the worst?**

Read It

Read Jude 1:17–23

2. **What does Jude tell us to remember? What are the predictions?**

3. **Who causes division in the church? Why?**

4. **What are we to build ourselves up in?**

5. **How are we called to treat those who show doubt?**

Day 2 — Today's Theme: Put to Heart

Read Jude 1:17–19.

In this portion of the text, Jude switches from talking about the *apostates*' (false teachers) and begins talking about the *apostles*' teaching. Jude puts a big emphasis on making sure we remember the apostles' teachings (we see similar warnings in 2 Peter 2:1–3, 1 John 4:1–3, 2 Timothy 3:1–9 and Matthew 7:15–19). Jude prioritizes the apostles' teachings because he has seen and will continue to see how false teachers will creep into the church and cause divisions from within.

6. Describe a time when you were taught something that turned out not to be true. How did it affect you and those around you?

7. Have you ever been told something about the Bible, the Church, or the faith that you later questioned and found out wasn't true?

8. How can the Church protect itself from being infiltrated by false teachers?

When I was growing up, something that my parents did a great job of was getting me to memorize Bible verses. They would give me little memory books and even put me in Awana where I would have to work through different memory verses in order to complete sections and ultimately complete the book to get an award.

It was a great way to get me to memorize verses, many of which I still remember to this day, but as I aged out of Awana, I began to memorize less and less. I eventually had to develop my own strategy for how I wanted to memorize Scripture moving forward.

Jude tells us to “remember” the apostles' teachings, because worldly people will try to rise up against us.

Psalms 119:11 says “I have stored up your word in my heart, so that I might not sin against you.”

9. Why is it important to memorize Bible verses? Do you ever take time to do this? Why?

10. Can you recall a specific time when a Bible verse popped into your head and helped you through a situation?

Day 3 — Today's Theme: Build Up

Read Jude 1:20–21.

The Great Wall of China was built over several centuries and by many different dynasties. The construction of the Great Wall began in the 7th century B.C. and took over 2000 years to complete. Various sections were built and rebuilt by different dynasties over the centuries, including the Qin, Han, and Ming dynasties. The wall extends for over 2,500 miles.

“In c. 220 B.C., under Qin Shi Huang, sections of earlier fortifications were joined together to form a **united defense system against invasions from the north**. Construction continued up to the Ming dynasty (1368–1644), when the Great Wall became the world's largest military structure.”¹

I love picturing the construction of the Great Wall, because it was in no way easy. The countless long days spent building, the pain and injury that no doubt occurred over the 2000 years of work that went into it. Brick by brick the wall had to be built up, and all as a defense mechanism.

Jude is telling us as Christians to do the same thing. We need to be building ourselves up in the faith so that we can better defend ourselves from outside intruders. And this will not happen overnight. We need to be committed to the process of growth, patiently waiting on the Lord.

11. In what specific ways are you building up your faith? How have you positioned yourself to defend your faith?

12. Verse 21 tells us to “wait.” In what situations could you develop better patience?

13. Read Romans 8:26 and relate it to Jude 1:20. How does this verse encourage you?

¹ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/438/#:~:text=In%20c.,against%20invasions%20from%20the%20north.>

Day 4 — Today's Theme: Mercy

Read Jude 1:22–23.

Growing up in my house I did a lot of stupid things. I had five siblings growing up (now there are six), so there was always someone to pick a fight with, whether that was a parent or a sibling. I would get in trouble all the time and the punishment in our house was getting a spanking (Proverbs 13:24). So how things would typically go, I would do something wrong, either hit one of my siblings or say something smart to Mom or Dad, and they would send me to the bathroom to “await my punishment.” This was the worst part of the whole ordeal—the waiting. Mom and Dad would either come in after a few minutes or maybe even wait a full hour before coming in.

I remember one specific time my Mom sent me into the bathroom to wait and I was in there for what felt like an hour and a half. I was anxiously waiting and terrified of the punishment that I was about to receive and no doubt deserved. But on this specific day, for whatever reason, she came into the bathroom and said “Ethan, I want you to know what you did was wrong and you deserve to be punished (and I knew that too), but I’ve decided to show you mercy and I will not spank you today.” Of course I was thrilled, but that is something that has stuck with me even all these years later. Why would she show me mercy?

Jude is telling us in this passage that we need to have mercy on those who doubt. Jesus even said this too in his dying moments in Luke 23:34—And Jesus said, “*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*”

It is our duty to love and minister to those who don't know the truth.

14. Describe a time when someone showed you mercy.

15. Verse 23 tells us to save others by snatching them out of the fire. What does this mean and what does this look like in your day-to-day life?

16. What does it mean to “Show mercy with fear”?

It is commonly said, “Hate the sin, love the sinner,” and in verse 23 we read, “hating even the garment stained by the flesh.”

17. What does it look like for you to live this out? Give an example of a time when you did this.