



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF EDMOND

JESUS *WINS*

A STUDY OF THE
BOOK OF JUDE

**MICRO-GROUP STUDY
2021**

7 Core Practices & Vision



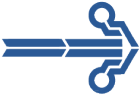
GATHER

- 1 SHARE who you are
- 2 CARE for one another



GROW

- 3 READ and PRACTICE scripture
- 4 PRAY together



GO

- 5 INVEST in people
- 6 SERVE community
- 7 CREATE and SEND leaders

NEW LIFE,
through **JESUS,**
for **EDMOND**
and the **WORLD.**

The Book of Jude

Greeting

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

Judgment on False Teachers

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.

5 Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved[c] a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. 6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— 7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire,[d] serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

8 Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. 9 But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." 10 But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. 11 Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. 12 These are hidden reefs[e] at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; 13 wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

14 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, 15 to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." 16 These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

A Call to Persevere

17 But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. 18 They[f] said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." 19 It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. 22 And have mercy on those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment[g] stained by the flesh.

Doxology

24 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, 25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time[h] and now and forever. Amen.

The Purpose of a Small Group

There is a lot of misunderstandings about small groups. People think that small groups are places where people sit around and are forced to bear their soul or hold hands and sing kumbaya.

Nope.

The purpose of small groups is to cultivate relationships that share the power of the Holy Spirit. Small groups at First Presbyterian Church exist to share the power of the Holy Spirit expressed through our 7 Core Practices. Faith is not taught. Faith is caught. And it usually happens through relationships. That's not to say teaching is not important. I would be the last one to say that! But I know a lot of people who have had great teaching who don't know Jesus. I know fewer who have immersed themselves in Christian community who don't know Him. I really don't know a Christian whose faith impacts their daily life who cannot name at least 3 or 4 important relationships that changed their world.

We are asking you to be a part of a micro-group (meaning a small group of 3-4 people) because we think it is a great way to grow in Christ. And it is really no more complicated than allowing yourself some time and space to form a Holy Spirit infused and empowered relationship that cultivates our core practices at First Pres. It takes no expertise, just a little bit of time and faith the size of a mustard seed.

“Ten Commandments” To Get the Most from Your Small Group

1. Read the Scripture lesson beforehand and pray before you read it asking the Holy Spirit to speak with you.
2. Attend regularly; make being there a priority.
3. Read and pray about the questions beforehand.
4. Be fully present in the group (put your phone aside).
5. Trustfully and truthfully share who you are.
6. Keep what is shared in the group in the group; don't share outside the group.
7. Listen to what others have to say.
8. Write down the prayer requests and pray daily for the others in your group.
9. Do something together to serve your community.
10. Invest in someone in your group, cultivate a friendship.

Lesson #1

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Jude 24-25

Jude ends his brief, power-packed letter with a doxology (a praise) and a promise. We begin our study of Jude here because this theme permeates the entire letter and sets the tone, which encourages and strengthens the believer who is not only battling against a world bent on destruction, but a Church that is cooperating by spreading lies and feeding her appetites. Despite these dire circumstances, Jesus is able to keep the faithful from stumbling and present us as blameless before our Heavenly Father whose glory and authority is unquestioned and unmatched throughout history, the present and forever. Despite living through challenging times alongside difficult and even evil people, we can be assured that our God who reigns over all will have the victory.

- 1.** Can you describe a time when you stumbled? Did you see God work in your life through that time? How did Jesus redeem your sin or failing or mistake to have the victory? (Romans 8:28)
- 2.** Do you believe you are blameless? Why or why not? If you don't believe you are blameless, what is stopping you from handing that blame and guilt over to God? What else do you think is required to pay for your guilt besides the life of God's only Son? (1 John 1:9, Isaiah 53:5)
- 3.** How much joy do you have in your life? Why do you think the Bible consistently lifts up joy as a quality possessed by followers of Jesus? What does it say about God's character that He has joy? Why do you think our Heavenly Father takes joy in you?
- 4.** Who makes our special relationship with God possible? Who is the one who presents us before the Father? (Acts 4:12) If sin is our barrier to God, does it even make logical sense that there would be other ways to

Lesson #2

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. 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. 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 1-4

Jesus' half-brother Jude began writing his letter to the Church with the intention of writing about the common salvation won for us by the man with whom he shared a bedroom and a table and labored alongside in the family business. But the urgency of those who have practiced and taught a different Gospel, a faith that champions personal license and even champions immorality, took priority. This Gospel has been championed by false teachers and wolves in sheep's clothing who serve another Master than Jesus Christ. Jude makes clear, however, that these people who have led the Church astray will not triumph in the end but face a judgment of their own because Jude's brother, our brother too, and our Savior and Lord always wins.

- 1.** Is it strange to think about someone growing up with Jesus as His brother? What point does this make about Jesus' humanity and sharing a common humanity with us? What does it tell us about the total nature of our salvation? What does this tell us about God's being for us and His willingness to hear from us? (Hebrews 4:15-16)
- 2.** Do you see any urgent areas in your life today that need to be addressed? Do you see any urgent areas in the Church that need to be addressed? In society? How do we balance this 'urgency' with the assurance that Jesus wins?
- 3.** Is there any area of your life where you have allowed sin because it is comfortable, pleasurable? (Romans 6:1-3) Is there any area of your life

Lesson #3

Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”

Jude 5-9

In the face of a Church straying from the Gospel and a culture that has rejected Jesus, Jude reminds his readers how it has gone for those who have opposed God or rebelled against God in the past, even His own people. Jude runs through a historical catalog—the Hebrew slaves who opposed Moses in the wilderness and rejected God, angels who joined Satan’s heavenly rebellion, even Sodom and Gomorrah. There is a common theme to their rebellion, four practices that mark their rebellious work. But even in the face of this great challenge, Jude assures us the power of the Lord is available to us even just speaking His name.

- 1.** Do you sometimes find it difficult to remember God’s work in your life? Is this because of fear or some other reason? What does Scripture teach us that the children of God do? (1 Chronicles 16:11-13) What role does knowing Scripture play in helping us remember God’s work?
- 2.** Why do you think so many Israelites wandering through the wilderness chose to oppose God even after their miraculous deliverance? Why were so many quick to believe that God had abandoned them? (Exodus 32:1) Have you ever felt tempted to despair that God was with you only to be proven wrong later? (Luke 18:7)
- 3.** Do you see any places like Sodom and Gomorrah today that are in outright rebellion against God? What does this kind of rebellion look like?

Lesson #4

But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever. It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

Jude 10-16

Jude now moves to a more thorough description of what rebellion against God's authority and love, as well as teaching another Gospel, looks like. In a flurry of images, Jude paints a picture of those who stealthily wreck the fellowship of the saints, are susceptible to teaching that is contrary to the word, selfish church leaders, fruitless and dry in their work and teaching and reveling in their shameful behavior. Jude also names some behaviors that are more familiar and easier for us to grasp—grumbling, boasting, favoritism. Even here, we are told that Jesus will have the victory. Jude tells us God, in His faithfulness, will not long suffer their behavior and seek to protect His Church and the integrity of the Gospel.

- 1.** Do you find yourself sometimes being led astray by instincts or un-Godly impulses? What does this look like? Is this easier to see in ourselves or others? What should our first impulse be? (Luke 6:42)
- 2.** Have you ever been wrecked by a "hidden reef", a sin or a sinful person, who surprised you? Why did this obstacle remain hidden to us? How can we prevent against this kind of thing? (2 Corinthians 2:9-11) How does

Lesson #5

But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

Jude 17-23

Jude has been forthcoming about the broken nature of the world and even the Church. It would be very easy to become pessimistic and simply seek to retreat and hide, hoping for the sin storm to blow over. Instead, Jude calls the faithful to take a stand for Jesus Christ and to not abandon the world and the Church to evil. He provides six action steps for us to take to address the broken we see surrounding us. These steps begin inwardly and move outward, not even abandoning the people who might be tempted to see as enemies and holding in tension a love for others and a healthy hatred for the unholy. Jude provides us great, practice-ready instruction grounded in the bedrock truth that Jesus wins.

- 1.** What is the key attribute of those who bring division and scoff at God's reign? By what are they formed? And Who are they missing in their life? (Jude 17-18) What evidence do you see of the Holy Spirit in your life? What do Holy Spirit-filled people look like? (Galatians 5:22-23) According to Galatians 5:24, what have those filled with the Spirit crucified?
- 2.** Why is division so deadly to the Church? What is Jesus' heart for the Church? (John 17:23) Is Jesus' goal for the Church unity for unity's sake or is He aiming at something else? What is it? How is "unity in Christ" different than simple "unity"?
- 3.** What are the first two acts Jude commands in order to stand for Jesus in the world? (Jude 20) What does it look like to build ourselves up in the



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