



Today NCF begins a study of **Jude**, the second to the last book in the Bible. Now, it seems kinda weird to me, but most modern-day Christians have heard the Beatles' song "*Hey Jude*" tons more times than they have ever read the Biblical book of **Jude**, or heard it taught in their church. The song was released in 1968 and, at over seven minutes in length, it was the longest single to top the British music charts up to that time. Beatles' fans refer to it as the ultimate "comfort song" because it was written by Paul McCartney to encourage 5-year-old Julian Lennon, whose parents, John and Cynthia Lennon, were going through a divorce. In contrast to the song, the book of **Jude** is not long. It is one of the shortest books in the Bible. **Jude** is also the least preached book of the New Testament because it can be extremely hard to understand without solid background knowledge of the Jewish thought and culture in Jesus' and Jude's day. Also, while there is some comfort to be found within it, **Jude** is much more of a fiery communiqué. It contains passionate language and vivid images that communicate in a "no holds barred, no punches pulled" manner, how to stay true to "**the faith**." You see, for believers in Christ, **Jude** isn't about a Beatles' song. It is a navigational direction finder for our journey with Jesus in this mixed-up world of spiritual confusion and contention.

## WHAT'S THE ACTUAL NAME OF THE BOOK?

### WHICH JUDAS WROTE JUDE?

### WHEN WAS JUDE WRITTEN?

## WHAT'S THE MAIN MESSAGE OF JUDE?

Don't \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ away from the Faith;

Stand-up \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ for the Faith!

## WHAT'S THE FLOW OF JUDE?

- vv. 1-2 A Fantastic Greeting
- v. 3 True Faith That Stands & Fights
- v. 4 False Faith That Stumbles & Fails
- vv. 5-7 The Fate of False Teachers
- vv. 8-16 The Facts about False Teachers
- vv. 17-23 True Faith Formation
- vv. 24-25 Our Faith Focus

## WHAT'S THE FIRST THING GOD WANTS YOU TO REMEMBER FROM JUDE?

*Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ. (Jude 1)*

1. ("Called") As a Christian, you are ...
2. ("Beloved") As a Christian, you are ...
3. ("Kept") As a Christian, you are ...

## FOR THOUGHT AND TALK

*In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of Pastor John's message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don't have to cover them all.*

1. Take a few minutes and have a good reader, using The Living Translation, read all 25 verses aloud. Can you see why Pastor John has said that parts of Jude can be "crazy hard" to understand and preach? As Jude was read, what questions popped up in your mind about what he was talking about?
2. Just curious, have you previously read through Jude or heard a preaching series from it? If so, what teachings from Jude do you remember and how have those teachings enriched your walk with Jesus. How do you think studying Jude might be able help you grow in Christ?
3. The main message (theme or point) of Jude is ... *Don't Stumble & Fall Away from The Faith; Stand-Up Strong & Fight for The Faith!* What are the markers of someone who is stumbling and falling away from Biblical faith? What characterizes those who are standing up strong and fighting for Biblical faith? Why is it important to differentiate between just having "faith" (in anything or anyone) and having "Biblical faith" (in Christ alone)? Here's a bonus question: How can we as followers of Jesus "fight" for Biblical faith without being obnoxious, rude or condescending?
4. Three key words from **Jude 1** are ... **called**, **beloved**, **kept**. "**Called**" has to do with God's **purpose** for you. What did you learn was that purpose? "**Beloved**" has to do with God's **passion** for you. How does it impact you to hear that God loves you with all His heart? "**Kept**" has to do with God's **promise** to you. Why is it important to realize that God will keep His promise to have you serve Him forever and enjoy His surprises forever? **CLOSING PRAYER:** Pray that the Holy Spirit will do a great work in you personally, and NCF corporately, as we study Jude.

*10.17.21 - 8th in a series of messages from 2 & 3 John & Jude entitled **POSTCARDS FROM PARADISE**, by Pastor John K. Nagle. For more information about Jesus or NCF, check us out at [www.ncffchurch.org](http://www.ncffchurch.org)*