

“Contending for the Faith”:
An Overview of the Letter of Jude
Sermon Notes

- **May Mound Free Church always have communion with God in the doctrines for which we contend**

Author (v.1a) - “Jude, a **servant** of Jesus Christ, and brother of James...”

Recipients (v.1b) - “To those who are **called, beloved** in God the Father, and **kept** for Jesus Christ.”

Greeting - (v.2) - “May **mercy, peace, and love** be multiplied to you.”

Key Themes & Application from Jude for Today...

- Think grace hunt, before heresy hunt (vv.1-4, 17-23)
- Engage in more theological triage, and less theological barrage (vv.3-4)
- Consider people’s character, not just convictions (vv.5-16)
- Embrace divine sovereignty and human responsibility (vv.1-2, 17-23, 24-25)

Next Sunday: Jude 3-4 - “Our Common Salvation”

Community Group Study Guide

For the Week of April 30th - May 6th

Getting Started

1. What sort of exposure (if any) have you had with the letter of Jude? Are you familiar with the main thrust of this epistle? Have you ever done any personal study of it, or heard good preaching and teaching on it? Do you have any favorite portions or truths you've learned from it? Please share with the group.

Digging Deeper

2. Though it's an awfully short book, it's just barely in the top five in terms of brevity (3 John, 2 John, Philemon, and Obadiah are even shorter). Nevertheless, it is eminently readable in one sitting so let's do it. Take some time as a group and read carefully through these 25 verses. What strikes you as you hear it read? What questions do you have? What are you most looking forward to discussing over this next month as we study this letter together as a church?

Open Your Bible to Jude 1...

3. Verse 1 begins: “Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James...”. The Greek name for Jude (Judas) appears some 43 times across the pages of the New Testament. While a relatively common name in the Ancient Near East, there really are only three men in particular that we could consider candidates for the authorship of this letter¹. There’s Judas, the son of James (one of the twelve disciples - Luke 6:16; Acts 1:13). Then we have an early Christian prophet named Judas (called Barsabbas - Acts 15:22, 27, 32). Finally, we’ve got Judas, the brother of our Lord Jesus (Mark 6:3). The majority of interpreters through the history of the church have understood this to be authored by the third of these men. How come? What other clue in verse 1 helps us out with his identity?²

4. Why do you imagine Jude referred to himself as “a servant of Jesus Christ” instead of “brother of our Lord” or something like that? Wouldn’t that have enhanced his street cred a bit? Though Jude most certainly was a brother of the Lord Jesus, what is he communicating with this title here in verse 1? What sort of practical application is there here for us?

¹ Well, there *is* a “Judas” (more infamous than famous) who’s even more well-known than any of these three. Perhaps it goes without saying, but why do we know for certain that the author of this letter couldn’t be him?

² What do we know about the other man named in verse 1 (also known as James the Just)? Take a look at Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18; James 1:1; Galatians 2:9, 12; 1 Corinthians 9:5; and 15:7. How does the identity of James help us to secure the identity of the Jude who penned this letter?

5. Jude refers to his readers with three spectacular titles (in verse 1b), each one pointing to a magnificent biblical reality that's true of them. We walked through each of them during the sermon. What are they? What do they mean? What difference do they make in our lives?

6. Verse 2 includes another three words...this time, offered as a greeting / prayer for his readers. What are they? What do they mean? What difference would it make in our lives if each of these realities were indeed “multiplied” to us?

7. The big idea for this overview sermon on Jude is: **May Mound Free Church always have communion with God in the doctrines for which we contend.** Why does that matter so much? Why is this such an asset as we seek to identify and stand against false teaching? What might be the liability if we begin to slip in this conviction? Close your time in prayer as a group, praying especially for our church during this Spring season as we study the letter of Jude. Consider using portions of this letter, or the sermon outline as a guide for prayer.