

Community Group Study Guide

For the Week of May 28th - June 3rd

Getting Started

1. As you reflect on our brief study of the letter of Jude, what to you is one of the sweetest truths to you that we considered together as a church? Why?

Digging Deeper

2. As you reflect on our brief study of the letter of Jude, what to you is one of the most sobering truths that we have considered together as a church? How come?

Open Your Bible to Jude 24-25...

3. Jude is one of a handful of doxologies in the pages of the New Testament. Compare this one alongside some of these others: Romans 16:25-27; Ephesians 3:20-21; Philippians 4:20; 1 Timothy 1:17; 2 Timothy 4:18b; 1 Peter 5:11; 2 Peter 3:18b. What are some of the elements that are common among these doxologies? In what ways do they vary from one another? Notice that the one in Ephesians 3:20-21 comes in the context of one of Paul's prayers. Do your prayers ever contain doxological language like this? If yes, explain. If not, why not?

4. To whom is Jude's doxology addressed in verse 24? The Father? The Son? The Spirit? If you have a sense of the answer, what inclines you in that direction? Notice that in verse 25, we learn that Jude's doxology is "through Jesus Christ our Lord". What is the significance of that?

5. Verse 24 contains two massive assurances about what God is able to accomplish in our lives. What are they? Consider each portion of each one carefully. Do you believe that the "you" in verse 24 includes you? Some folks are quick to point out that Jude is merely conveying to us what God is able to do in the life of a Christian, not necessarily what he infallibly will do in the life of a Christian. Compare Jude 24 with what Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24. What does Paul clarify that Jude appears to leave a bit more open? How does this make you feel?

6. One of the great themes that we've encountered in Jude's epistle are the twin truths of divine sovereignty and human responsibility. Consider the way we are taught to understand "keeping" in this letter. Sometimes the accent is on God doing this great work (vv.1, 24). Other times the accent is on our role in this same work (v.21). Earlier in this preaching series, we encountered this statement from Charles Spurgeon: "...two things that few can see. They are believed to be inconsistent and contradictory; but they are not. It is just the fault of our weak judgment. Two truths cannot be contradictory to each other. If, then, I find taught in one place that everything is fore-ordained, that is true; and if I find in another place that man is responsible for all his actions, that is true; and it is my folly that leads me to imagine that two truths can ever contradict each other. These two truths, I do not believe, can ever be welded into one upon any human anvil, but one they shall be in eternity: they are two lines that are so nearly parallel, that the mind that shall pursue them farthest, will never discover that they converge; but they do converge, and they will meet somewhere in eternity, close to the throne of God, whence all truth doth spring."¹ Jude (like Spurgeon) is perfectly content to allow these truths of divine sovereignty and human responsibility to lie side-by-side with one another. Are you? What practical difference does it make to you in your daily life that both of these are true?

7. If verse 24 explains what God is able to do, then verse 25 explains why he is able to do it. How many different truths can you draw out of verse 25 that, taken together, ought to inform our worship of God? If you had to choose one aspect of God's character and attributes from verse 25 that's most precious to you, which one is it, and why?

¹ <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/sovereign-grace-and-mans-responsibility/#flipbook/>. Accessed 4/29/23 @ 4pm.