

Sunday School Lesson
 The Book of Jude (July 24, 2022)

Introduction

Jude is not a book of overarching and all-encompassing theology. As with the other epistles, or letters, in the New Testament (especially 2 Peter), it was chosen to be included in the Bible because it describes a Christian-oriented approach to specific issues. In this case it is to rally the church to defense against heretics and false teachers.

Group	Point	Scripture	Your Notes
Who?	Author	Jude 1 Mark 6:3	Jude, brother of James and half-brother of Jesus. Note: rather than claim kinship to Jesus, he claims to be His servant.
<p>¹ <i>Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James,</i></p> <p><i>To those who have been called, who are loved (or “<u>sanctified</u>”) in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:</i></p> <p>³ <i>Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.</i></p> <p>* James was a leader in early church. This shows Jude’s humility and priority.</p>			
	To whom?	Also Jude 1	Not specified; could have been intended for circulation among churches. klētós = to be called hagiázō = sanctified tēréō = preserved/kept/reserved
	Greeting	Jude 2	² “Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.” Uniquely Christian greeting. Similar to intros in Paul’s letters
When?			Appears contemporaneous with 2 Peter, so about 67-70AD.
What?	Original intent	Jude 3	Simply to encourage the church
<p>³ <i>Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to</i></p>			

<i>write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.</i>			
	New intent		1- Do not drift 2- Do not be led astray
	Nominal Christianity	Isaiah 29:13	Claim to be Christian, but their Heart is not in it
¹³ <i>The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught</i>			
	False teachers	Jude 4	Slipped in among you
⁴ <i>For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.</i>			
	God's handling of previous cases	Jude 5-9	⁵ Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord at one time delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. ⁷ In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. ⁸ In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings. ⁹ But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander

			but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”
		2 Peter 2:4	Regards punishment of fallen angles
<p>“Fallen” implies that once they were not fallen but had heavenly privileges. ⁴ <i>For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of nether gloom to be kept until the judgment;</i></p>			
	Attributes of evil leaders		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ungodly (v. 4) • Deny God & Jesus (v. 4) • Defile the flesh (v. 8) • Reject authority (v.8)
	Fundamental problem of heretics and false teachers	Jude 17-19	¹⁷ But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; ¹⁸ they said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” ¹⁹ It is these who set up divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.
<p>Regarding scoffers: 2 Peter 3:3-4 <i>“3 First of all you must understand this, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own passions 4 and saying, ‘Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation.’”</i></p> <p>Bottom line: they do not have the Holy Spirit</p>			
	Woe to the ungodly	Jude 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jealous of Able’s offering to God being accepted, while his was not, Cain killed Able. (Genesis 4:3-8) • Motivated by greed and desire for personal gain, Balaam prepared to help Moabites in war, contrary to God’s instructions, but God’s angle appeared to his donkey who refused to proceed. (Numbers 22) • Korah & 250 leaders revolted against Moses; the Lord opened the earth and swallowed them up. (Numbers 16)
<p>¹¹ <i>Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam’s error; they have been destroyed in Korah’s rebellion.</i></p>			

How?	Admonition: Be a <u>Builder</u>	Jude 20-23	²⁰ But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. ²² And convince some, who doubt; ²³ save some, by snatching them out of the fire; on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrew 11:6 – without faith it is impossible to please God. • Speak the truth to each other in love; (1 Cor 8:1) Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies (builds up) • God’s ultimate mercy is eternal life • Hate the sin, but have compassion for the sinner and make all efforts to save them from their sin 			
	Benediction	Jude 24-25	(You’ve heard this many times; did you know it came from Jude?)
<p>(KJV) ²⁴ Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,</p> <p>²⁵ To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.</p>			
So What?	Application to today		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominal Christians • Tendency to drift • False teachers to lead you astray; know them by their rejection of authority of God (1st Commandment) Hebrews 13:17 • Be a BUILDER !!
<p>Hebrews 13:17 <i>Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you.</i></p>			

Closing Prayer:

A Time for Prayer by Charles D. Meigs (1846-1920)

Reprinted in "Make Every Day a Good Day," PLUS magazine, Norman Vincent Peale, editor, August/September 2022

Lord, help me live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray
My prayers will be for Others.

Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true
And know that all I do for You
Must needs be done for Others...

And when my work on earth is done
And my new work in heaven begun
May I forget the crown I've won
While thinking still of Others.

Others, Lord, yes, Others
Let this my motto be;
Help me to live for Others
That I may live like Thee.

Additional reference material:

1. Cedar, Paul A., Mastering the New Testament: James; 1, 2 Peter; and Jude, Lloyd Ogilvie, General Editor, Word Publishing, Dallas, TX, 1984, pp. 243-262.
2. Harper Study Bible, Revised Standard Version, Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, MI, 1985.
3. Rudolph, Rev. Kevin C., The Bible Tour Guide: a 365 Day Spiritual Journey, Rich Publishing Co., 1991.
4. www.BibleGateway.com for NIV & RSV quotations.

Bible Readings:

1. Jude 1	2. Mark 6:3
3. Jude 3	4. Isaiah 29:13
5. Jude 4	6. 2 Peter 2:4
7. Jude 11	8. Jude 24-25