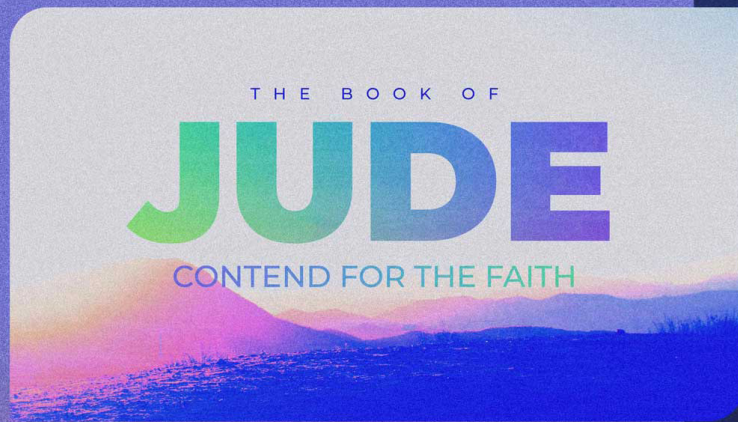


LIFE APP



**Knowing
God's truth
protects
us from
temptation.**

CURRENT THEME:

Contend for our faith and for truth.

MEMORY VERSE

"Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called..." **1 Timothy 6:12 (ESV)**

AUGUST 31 - LIFE APPLICATION

Knowing God's truth protects us from temptation.

Today's Scripture: **Jude 1:7**

Note to Parents: During the month of August, we are studying the **Book of Jude** - we will learn who Jude was and why the **Book of Jude** is so important to those who follow Jesus. We are encouraged to *know we are loved, know what we believe, watch for false teaching, and stand for the truth.*

Review:

What have we learned so far from the **Book of Jude**?

1. Contend for the faith: know and fight for what you believe (**verse 3**).
2. Beware of false teachers (**verses 4-5**).
3. False teachers will be punished by God (**verse 6**).

What were the two examples of false teachers who were punished harshly?

1. Satan, an angel who rebelled against God and caused $\frac{1}{3}$ of God's angels (now demons) to join him in rebellion against God. They were beaten in battle by the angel Michael and all of God's other angels, and they were cast down from heaven to be harshly punished forever.
2. The Jews (Israelites) who were rescued from slavery in Egypt and led by God to the Promised Land. After a trip that took just 11 days, 12 spies were sent into the Promised Land to see what they would encounter there if they went in, and only two came back with a good report - Joshua and Caleb. The others saw many obstacles that frightened them, including walled cities and "giants" living there. Because of their unbelief, the Jews had to wander for 40 years before going into the Promised Land, and none of those who were adults at the time (except Joshua and Caleb) would live to see what God had for them in the land he had promised! Their unbelief kept them from all God had ready and waiting for them!

Discuss: Jude 1:7

Note to Parents: Today's verse, as well as the other scripture we are using, contains words that may be uncomfortable for your children, depending on their age and maturity level. You may want to substitute the words "sin" and "wickedness" or "evil ways," instead of sexual terms. However, please see **David Chadwick's recommendations** for you in the **"Words From Our Pastor"** section)

1. **Have you ever been tempted to sin?** (*Pause for answers.*) **What about if everyone else is doing something? Does that make it okay?** (*Discuss.*)

This week we are going to talk about two cities where almost everyone was sinning, and they thought it was okay!

2. Jude gives another example of unbelief and disobedience: **What were the names of the cities that were harshly punished for their unbelief and sin?** (*Sodom and Gomorrah.*) Read **Jude, verse 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."

3. Read through **Genesis 18:16-19:29** together, or you can read it and then tell this true story to your family. Here are the main points:
 - God was displeased with the wickedness and immoral behavior going on in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, and he sent two angels there to see if the sin was as terrible as the "outcry" about the cities he had heard. He decided to tell Abraham that he would destroy the cities if this were true.
 - Abraham began to bargain with God, asking him if he would destroy the cities if there were 50 righteous people in the city of Sodom, or 45, or 40, or 30, or 20, or even 10 righteous people there? God said he would not destroy the city if there were even 10 righteous people there.
 - Lot, Abraham's nephew, was living in Sodom with his family, and he was a righteous man. When the angels arrived, Lot thought they were travelers and invited them to wash their feet and spend the night. Lot knew the city was so wicked that they would be hurt or killed if they slept there. The angels agreed to stay in Lot's home, but evil men still came and tried to take them away. The angels struck the evil men and made them blind, then told Lot that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah would soon be destroyed by the Lord because of the evil and wickedness there. Lot was told to take his family and leave the city in a hurry, and not to look back, or they too would be destroyed.
 - When Lot hesitated, the angels took his hand and the hands of his wife and two daughters and led them out of the city. The angels agreed not to destroy the small town of Zoar, so that Lot could live there with his family. When Lot and his family reached Zoar, the Lord rained burning sulfur on the cities, and they were destroyed. **What happened when Lot and his family heard and smelled what was happening?**
 - Read **verse 26**: *But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.*

Why did this happen to Lot's wife? (*Because she had unbelief and*

did not obey what the angels had told them when they said not to look back.)

4. **Why did God save Lot?** *(He was a righteous man, probably the only one in the entire city of Sodom, and he was also Abraham's nephew.)* Read **verse 29**: *"So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived."*
5. **Why did God destroy these cities?** *(Discuss.)* God loves people, but He hates sin, and unbelief causes sin and evil in this world. When we believe in God (Jesus) and obey Him, we do not want to sin! We want to please Him and live our lives for Him!

A word from our pastor, David Chadwick::

Verse 7 uses the illustration of Sodom and Gomorrah as another example of God's judgment upon false teachers. The story of Sodom and Gomorrah is found in **Genesis 19**. When you look at other verses in the Bible, you will discover that Sodom's sins were such things as pride, a lack of hospitality, no concern for the poor, and greed. But it's also very clear that their sin, throughout the Bible, was **sexual immorality**. More specifically, Sodom's sin was about same sex relationships - especially men with men (but could include women with women which the Scripture condemns as well).

Knowing how sensitive this topic is with parents and kids, we ask you parents to find the best way of communicating this biblical perspective on human sexuality to your kids in an age appropriate style. From the Bible's standpoint, here is what you need to communicate:

- Sex is a good gift from God
- Its purpose is to create more children (who are a gift from the Lord) and draw mom and dad closer and closer to their marriage vows: their commitment to each other forever.
- Marriage is only between a man and a woman (**Genesis 2:24**, quoted by Jesus in **Matthew 19:4-6** – obviously God's will expressed through God himself, Jesus!).
- Any other way sex is used is sin, and is outside God's will (**Romans 1:26-27**; **Leviticus 18:22**)
- Using sex wrongly can be forgiven and repented of.

Family challenges:

Together, commit to asking God for guidance every morning before we begin our day - at school, work, or in the home. Ask Him to keep us from evil and temptation,

and give us strength to contend for the truth. Each morning, ask your family to share an area where they will need prayer that day, and then follow through by praying for each other during the day. In the evening, at dinner or bedtime, ask how the day went and thank God for His care for us and His guidance throughout the day.

Prayer:

Dear God, we know that You want us to believe in your Word, in the truth, and in the promises You have made. Help us whenever we are tempted by unbelief, because unbelief leads us into sin. Help us to be strong and withstand temptation from others to do wrong things. We love You! In Jesus' Name, Amen.