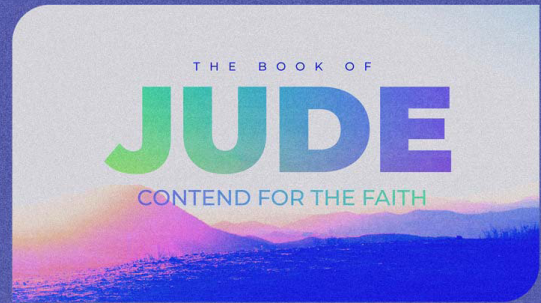


**LIFE
APP**



**Keep reaching
the lost for Jesus**

CURRENT THEME:

Contend for the faith!

MEMORY VERSE

“Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart.
For consider what great things he has done for you.”

- 1 Samuel 12:24 (NIV)

OCTOBER 12 | LIFE APPLICATION

Keep reaching the lost for Jesus!

Today's Scripture: **Jude verses 22-23:**

Note to Parents: We are currently studying the **Book of Jude**, written by the half brother of Jesus who was also a disciple of Jesus. The Book of Jude is so important to those who follow Jesus, because we are encouraged to know we are loved, know what we believe, to watch for false teaching, and contend for the truth. Today, our lesson is on **reaching the lost and those who have doubt.**

Review:

1. In **verses 18 and 19**, we learned about false teachers/prophets. **What are some of the characteristics of the false teachers/prophets?** (*Share thoughts on this, then look at this list*)

- They are scoffers - they don't believe in the second coming of Jesus or judgement.
- They follow their own ungodly passions (uncontrolled sensuality)
- They cause divisions among people (they want all the attention, not Jesus)
- They are worldly/soulish people (led by their feelings/emotions/experiences and not truth)
- They are devoid of the Spirit (a form of godliness but without power)

2. **How can Christians develop hearts of faith and truth as Jesus followers?**

Read each topic, then the verse, and discuss how this applies to us personally:

- **Build up your faith. How?**

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."
Romans 10:17

- **Pray in the Holy Spirit. How?**

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." **Romans 8:26**

- **Keep yourselves in the love of God. How?**

"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love." **John 15:10**

- **Wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus which leads to eternal life. How?**

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy

and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19-21

Jude now turns from learning how to guard our hearts (our insides) to defeat false teachers/prophets in our lives, to **having a heart for the lost (the outsiders) in our lives.**

Discuss Jude, verses 22-23:

Do you have family, friends, others you know who don't believe or who have doubt? (*Discuss.*) **What should we do?** They are people we love, and we are concerned for their eternity.

Jude gives three kinds of people who "doubt."

- Those with a doubting faith - they may go to church or say they are Christians but aren't sure what they believe
 - Those who either outright don't believe and/or have walked away from the faith
 - Those who obstinately continue to sin (but may call themselves "Christians")
1. This verse addresses the first group - those with a doubting faith: *"Be merciful to those who doubt;"* **Jude 22**

How should we treat those who have a doubting faith? (*Discuss - we should give them mercy - meaning: we don't receive what we deserve.*)

Why should we give them mercy? (*Let everyone share their thoughts, then use these points to discuss:*

- We are all sinners, and we have not received what we deserved: (*Hell*). We can't save ourselves, but Jesus can save us.
- Jesus had mercy on us and died to save us from our sins and live with Him forever in heaven.
- Many doubters have tender hearts, and your kindness and mercy can go a long way in leading them to salvation and a new life in Jesus!
- When talking with unbelievers or doubters, we have no right to be proud and self righteous. In **John 8:1-11**, when Jesus said, *"Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her,"* the older people dropped their rocks first because they knew they were sinners!
- Be kind and give mercy with your words and wait for an opportunity to share how knowing Jesus has changed your life.
- **Bottom line:** we give mercy to others because of the ways Jesus has given mercy to us, not giving us what we deserve (eternal judgment and separation from God).

2. The second group is those who have doubt that leads to unbelief: *"...save others by snatching them out of the fire;"* **Jude 23a**

They may go to church or say they are Christians but aren't sure what they believe. These are the people who may have bought the lies of false teachers.

- They don't believe in eternal judgment and the reality of hell
- They live by their works and pride, denying the deity of Jesus - they may be atheists, or agnostics
- They are those who have adopted the spirit of the age
- Those who reject the gospel as a "stumbling block/offense"
- The gospel cuts against all their human pride
- The stern "warning" is because they have become hardhearted
- They need to be warned about the reality of hell: **Ezekiel 33:8**
- *"But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."* **James 1:6**

3. The third group is those who have doubt and are looking for answers: *"...to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh."* **Jude 23b**

- Show them "mercy"
- Many have never heard that their lifestyles are sin in God's eyes
- Some of us may have once been entrapped by doubts as well
- We are all sinners, saved by God's grace and mercy
- We approach them "in fear," in the fear of the Lord
- Let them know that in Jesus alone is your identity!
- And, that Jesus yearns for them to be in heaven; and so do we

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." **Proverbs 1:7**

Always be ready to share your faith with those who want answers!

"...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect" **1 Peter 3:15**

A word from our pastor, David Chadwick:

With all three groups: Don't forget the power of INTERCESSION - (*pray for them*) - preceding SALVATION. Prayer often precedes people's salvation. Pray and ask for the Lord to lead you and guide You. Ask for the words He would have you say.

- Seek discernment. **(James 1:5)**

- Show mercy and compassion. **(Matthew 5:7)**
- Be bold and courageous. **(Joshua 1:9,10)**
- Seek restoration to Jesus and his church. **(Galatians 6:1)**

All three groups matter to God. **The proof?**

- **The cradle:** God's pursuit of us from heaven
- **The cross:** God's passion for us to forgive our sins

May MOHC always be a church with a passionate desire to seek and save the lost! Remember **baptisms on October 19th**, next Sunday at 9 and 11! Please sign up!

Family challenge:

1. Together, discuss how adults, teens, and kids can be a light in this world to those who have unbelief and doubt. God has placed you where you are - at work, at school, in your neighborhood, in your city - to give moments of hope to all who need it. Be bold and courageous!

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." **Joshua 1:9,10**

2. Pray together, asking God to show you the people around you who need to know Him. Have each family member write down the name of a person they know who does not know Jesus, or who has doubts about their faith.

Encourage family members to keep the name in a place where they will see it so that they will be reminded to pray for this person, and to watch for opportunities to show them kindness and mercy and hopefully tell them about Jesus. Also, continue to encourage each other at family time to persevere in reaching out to those who are lost. Always be ready to invite friends and neighbors to church, Hope U, or a kids' or teens' event!

3. Through City of Hope, there are partner ministries all around Charlotte where you can serve individually or as a family. Go to this link to discover ways you can show God's love to others! **www.cityofhopeclt.org**
4. As a family, start caring for others near you. **Is there a neighbor who is lonely? Someone who has lost a family member or who is sick? A single mom who needs help?** Be a good neighbor and show the love of Jesus to people placed in your sphere of influence. Take meals, make cards, help with yard work, go to the grocery store, etc.

Prayer:

Jesus, please help us to be bold and courageous as we have opportunities to share our faith with people we know who need You. Help us to show kindness and mercy. We know we can do all things with Your help. In Jesus' Name, Amen.