

POINTE•MEN

LIFEPOINTE CHURCH MEN'S MINISTRY

"Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people."

- Jude 3

Contend for the Faith

A 3-Week Study on the Epistle of Jude

Week 1: Be A Contender

In the classic movie "On The Waterfront," former boxer turned dockworker Terry Malloy, portrayed by Marlon Brando, grapples with internal conflict amid the violence and corruption dictated by the ruthless union boss, Johnny Friendly. Haunted by regrets and unrealized dreams from his boxing days, Terry finds himself entangled in the union's corrupt practices. The pivotal moment arises when Terry confronts his brother Charley, revealing how Charley, under pressure from mobsters, orchestrated Terry's downfall by manipulating him into throwing a fight—a decision that shattered Terry's boxing career.

During this emotional confrontation, Terry delivers the memorable line, "I coulda been a contender. I coulda been somebody, instead of a bum, which is what I am." The profound regret expressed in this moment reflects more than just the loss of his boxing career; it also reveals the broader impact on Terry's sense of identity and self-worth within the harsh reality of the corrupt waterfront environment. This critical moment serves as a catalyst, prompting Terry's moral awakening and fueling his determination to challenge the corrupt system, ultimately steering him towards redemption and the pursuit of justice.

Similarly, in the Book of Jude, believers are urged to contend earnestly for the faith against false teachings and corruption within their ranks. Just as Terry confronted the manipulation that led to his downfall, Christians are called to confront the manipulation of false doctrines within their faith community that will ultimately lead to the downfall of those who believe such doctrines. Today, among these distortions, there's a growing pressure to accept practices contrary to scriptural teachings, particularly the acceptance of sexual immorality, including homosexual behavior. Jude's call for vigilance echoes the importance of standing firm against teachings that deviate from the truth revealed in Scripture. Christians are encouraged to defend the integrity of their faith, remaining vigilant against manipulative ideologies that undermine God's Word and distort the essence of biblical truths about morality and righteous living.

Questions To Consider

Read Jude 1:1-4

1. What is the significance of Jude calling himself a slave of Jesus Christ and the brother of James in verse 1? (v. 1) *see Matthew 13:55; Romans 6:19-22*
2. What does it mean to be “called by God the Father”? (v. 1) *see Romans 8:29-30*
3. Reflect on the idea of being "kept for Jesus Christ" by God the Father, as mentioned in Jude 1. How does this assurance impact one's understanding of God's faithfulness and care? (v. 1) *see John 10:27-29*
4. How might the multiplication of mercy, peace, and love impact the unity and resilience of a faith community, particularly when addressing false teaching within the Church? (v. 2) *see Galatians 6:1-2*
5. What does it mean to contend for the faith, and how do we prepare for this important task? (v. 3) *see Ephesians 6:10-18*
6. How might believers effectively contend for the faith when confronted with worldly ideologies that compromise or contradict biblical values? (v. 3) *see 1 John 4:1; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5*
7. How does Jude's caution about turning God's grace into a license for immorality resonate with contemporary ethical challenges and misconceptions about grace? (v. 4) *see Romans 6:1-2; 1 Peter 2:16*
8. How do you suppose these false teachers slipped into the community unnoticed? (v. 4) *see Matthew 7:15; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15*
9. What does it mean that these men were marked for condemnation long ago? (v. 4) *see Romans 2:5; 2 Peter 2:3*
10. How can believers actively safeguard their faith communities from being influenced or led astray by teachings that distort or misuse the concept of grace? (v. 4) *see Titus 1:9; 2 John 1:10-11*