



SESSION 9

THE BOOK OF JUDE

FOR THE
LEADER

Jude

Jude is another one of Jesus' half brothers. Like James, Jude did not believe Jesus was the Messiah until after Jesus' resurrection. Jude's audience for this letter is unknown. The letter is addressed to "Those who are called, [and] loved by God." Evidence in the letter suggests that Jude was writing to Jews, as he used many terms in his short letter that would have been readily understood by a Jewish audience. Jude actually intended to write a letter about salvation, but the Holy Spirit prompted Jude to write a warning about the influx of false teachers who were starting to infiltrate the churches.

Not only was the early church dealing with intense persecution, but now many people were coming and bringing a false gospel that taught something other than faithfulness to Christ. These false teachers denied the truth of Jesus Christ's deity and instead made a mockery of salvation. Jesus Christ is shown by Jude to be the only true Lord.

Jude compared false teachers to dangerous reefs. In a society with many skilled fishermen, Jude's readers would have quickly understood the danger Jude highlighted. These false teachers would infiltrate the church with reverence and apparent humility to win over the people. Once the church welcomed the false teachers, they were free to start spreading their lies. Unsuspecting believers could be swept away by the smooth-talking teachers.

Jude warned the church to look out for these false teachers, and be bold against things they knew were not true. Jude highlighted characteristics of these false teachers, such as grumbling against others, doing whatever their hearts desire and not what God's Word teaches, speaking arrogantly, and openly flattering others for their own benefit.

Jude continued to encourage the people that, ultimately, these false teachers would be exposed and that God would remove them. Recognizing truth by being immersed in God's Word is the best way to combat the false teachings.

This week, challenge girls and boys to recognize that God gives His love to people. God's love comes only from God alone. Being aware of the truth of Scripture will help kids be ready to stand up and tell others the truth about Jesus!

SESSION FOCUS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Jude

MEMORY VERSE: Galatians 5:22-23

BONUS VERSE: 1 Peter 3:15

TEXT TRUTH: Be ready to defend and share the gospel with false teachers.

BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Name the genres of the Bible and identify books in each genre.

BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

- ☐ **Jump In:** Item 13: “Objects: James and Jude Plaque” (Printables)
- ☐ **Examine the Text:** Item 8: “Text Truth 9” (Poster Pack), “Jude” (Books of the Bible Posters), Bibles, Item 5: “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” (Printables)
- ☐ **Play the Video:** Explore the Bible on Location video
- ☐ **Memory Verse:** Item 2: “Galatians 5:22-23” (Poster Pack), dry erase board, 2 dry erase markers
- ☐ **Prayer:** Family Cards, Item 11: “Christ in Context: Jude” (Printables)

APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

- ☐ **Explorer Guides:** Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- ☐ **Review:** Item 9: “Review Questions” (Printables), Bible Timeline for Kids

To order the *Explore the Bible: Books of the Bible Posters* (Print Item No. 005849118, Digital Item No. 005849119) and the *Bible Timeline for Kids* (Item No. 005811866), call Lifeway’s Customer Service at 1.800.458.2772 or order online at www.lifeway.com.

ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

- ☐ **Bible Skills:** Item 16: “Bible Letters” (Poster Pack), Bibles, paper, pencils
- ☐ **Move:** Item 5: “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” (Printables), index cards, marker, small bag
- ☐ **Make:** Bibles, cardstock, scissors, markers, stickers
- ☐ **Explore:** Item 22: “Neighbor Cards” (Printables)

Leaders, grow on the go! Listen to session-by-session training every week on Ministry Grid, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or visit goexplorethebible.com/kids-training.

THE BOOK OF JUDE

Jude

Jude was a follower of Jesus. He was the brother of James, and both men were half brothers of Jesus. Jude decided to write a letter to some of his friends who believed in Jesus. He originally planned to write about salvation, but Jude had heard some bad news. His friends were around some people who were not following God. These people were false teachers, and they had become a part of the church. James warned that the church needed to be ready to defend and share the gospel with false teachers.

Jude warned, “False teachers are dangerous. They are like rocks hidden under the water that a ship might hit. They only care about themselves. They are shepherds who only take care of themselves instead of caring for the sheep. They are unhappy grumblers.”

Jude continued, “False teachers follow their own desires instead of seeking to obey God. They speak with arrogance. They try to compliment people to gain an advantage. Remember what the apostles of Jesus said. They warned that false teachers would exist. The false teachers would create disagreements among the church. But these teachers are not true followers of Jesus. They do not have the Holy Spirit.”

Then Jude challenged his friends, “Grow strong in your faith and pray. Stay in God’s love. Have mercy on others who doubt and carefully help them understand about Jesus. Reach out to those who believe the false teachers and help them understand the truth about Jesus. Be ready to stand up for and tell others about Jesus, and do not believe what the false teachers are telling you.”

Finally, Jude ended his letter with some praise for God, “We give glory, majesty, power, and authority to only God our Savior, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.”

CHRIST IN CONTEXT:

Jude was the half brother of Jesus and wrote his letter to warn Christians against the false teachers who were trying to lead believers astray. The book of Jude encourages believers to rely on Jesus Christ to provide for them and to serve as their example so they can be pleasing to God in all ways.

TIP:

Check out Item 15: “Inclusion Resources” (Printables) to find a simplified Bible story for kids with short attention spans.

TOOLS:

- Jump In: Item 13: “Objects: James and Jude Plaque” (Printables)
- Examine the Text: Item 8: “Text Truth 9” (Poster Pack), “Jude” (Books of the Bible Posters), Bibles, Item 5: “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” (Printables)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: Item 2: “Galatians 5:22-23” (Poster Pack), dry erase board, 2 dry erase markers
- Prayer: Family Cards, Item 11: “Christ in Context: Jude” (Printables)

BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

Need an Opening Activity? Choose one of the activities in the *Activities* section and adapt it to introduce the session.

JUMP IN

- Begin by saying: “I love exploring God’s Word with you each week. Who can remember what Bible book we explored last week?” (*James*)
- Display “James and Jude Plaque.” Indicate James as the man on the left. Point out the quill in his hand and the long scroll.
- Ask: “What do you think the artist is trying to picture James doing?” (*writing the book of James*)
- Mention that the words on the scroll flowing down from the writing desk read, “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,” which are the opening words to the book of James.
- Tell kids that the man on the right is James’ brother Jude, who is also the half brother of Jesus. Explain that Jude wrote a book in the Bible as well.
- Say: “Today, we are going to explore the book of Jude!”

EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Display “Jude” and review the information on the poster.
- Lead girls and boys to find the book of Jude in their Bibles. Show kids how to use the table of contents to find Jude.
- Choose a volunteer to read Jude 1:1-3. Point out that these verses reveal the genre.
- Ask: “What genre does Jude belong to?” (*letters*) “What was Jude hoping to write about?” (*salvation*)
- Say: “Jude wanted to write a letter about the salvation that he and his audience shared. But, the Holy Spirit prompted him to write a letter about something different.”
- Invite kids to listen as you share Jude in your own words, using the Bible story page as a guide.
- Ask a volunteer to read Jude 1:12.
- Ask: “What did Jude compare false teachers to?” Encourage kids to look at their Bibles and read the answers.
- Display “Text Truth 9.”
- Remind the group that Jude wrote his letter to warn against false teachers and to encourage believers to grow in their faith. Jude wanted believers to **be ready to defend and share the gospel with false teachers.**
- Read the Text Truth aloud as a group.
- Explain that Jude gave instructions for how believers can recognize a false teacher and grow in their faith.
- Ask: “Can you think of any examples of false teachers in our world?” Give kids time to share their answers.
- Take some time to review “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” with your group. Ask kids how they might defend the gospel to an unbeliever.

PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 9 video.
- Ask: “Where was Joel visiting? How did Joel plan to win? Why did Joel keep losing? How did Joel finally win a round? What did Joel learn about standing up to false teachers?”

MEMORY VERSE

- ☐ ***Bible Verse Option:** The Memory Verse activity each week is focused on the monthly Memory Verse, Galatians 5:22-23. If your kids quickly memorize the Memory Verse, you may opt to challenge them to learn an additional weekly Bonus Verse. This week’s Bonus Verse is 1 Peter 3:15.*
- ☐ ***With a dry erase marker, draw a vertical line down the center of the dry erase board.***
- Review Galatians 5:22 with the group by saying it aloud together.
- Form two groups. Help each group form a line in an open area opposite the dry erase board. Mark one half of the dry erase board for group one and the other half for group two.
- Give the first kid in each line a dry erase marker. Tell kids that when you say “go,” they will race to the board and write the first word of the Memory Verse. Then they will pass the marker to the second kid, who will race to write the second word, and so on until the entire verse is written, including the reference.
- Suggest kids work together to help one another with the words.
- Begin the race. Announce the first group who correctly records the verse on the board as the winner.
- Conclude by reading the verse together.

PRAYER

- Display “Christ in Context: Jude” and invite a kid to read it aloud.
- Say: “Jude’s letter tells us that a false teacher’s life will indicate that they do not follow Jesus and do not have the Holy Spirit.”
- Continue: “True followers of Jesus try to follow Jesus’ example in the way they live.”
- Distribute Family Cards. Pray and ask God to give the kids wisdom to recognize false teaching and the courage to **be ready to defend and share the gospel with false teachers.**

TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Review: Item 9: “Review Questions” (Printables), *Bible Timeline for Kids*

APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids locate today’s pages.
- Invite a volunteer to read aloud about today’s object, “James and Jude Plaque.”
- Encourage kids to examine “Modern Day Marine Tools.”
- Guide kids to find objects that do not belong in “Picture This!”
- Invite kids to read “What is Majesty?”
- Invite kids to complete “True or False?”

REVIEW

☐ *Print one copy of “Review Questions.”*

- Direct kids’ attention to the timeline. Highlight some things listed in the box that the early church devoted themselves to during the time Jude was written.
- Say: “Jude also wanted the early church to **be ready to defend and share the gospel with false teachers.**”
- Invite the group to sit on the floor facing you. Explain that you will ask a “Review Question” and kids who know the answer should stand up as quickly as they can. Tell kids you will choose the first person who stands up to answer the question.
- Ask the “Review Questions.”
- Emphasize that the book of Jude teaches believers to be ready to stand up and tell others about Jesus.
- Encourage the group to **be ready to defend and share the gospel with false teachers.**

ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.

LETTER WRITING



Tools: Item 16: “Bible Letters” (Poster Pack), Bibles, paper, pencils

- ☐ Display the “Bible Letters” poster on a focal wall.
- Teach that the Bible is made up of many different types of writing, or genres.
- Tell girls and boys the New Testament contains four genres: gospels, history, letters, and prophecy. Explain that identifying a book’s genre can help us understand it.
- Review the “Bible Letters” poster. Mention that 21 of the 27 books in the New Testament are letters. Examine the key features of letters from the poster together.
- Ask: “If you were writing a letter to someone who did not believe in Jesus, what would you say?” Let kids share their answers.
- Tell kids they are going to write their own letters to someone who does not believe in Jesus.
- Tell kids they can write the letter to someone they know or use an imaginary name.
- Help kids study the “Bible Letters” poster. Ask kids to think about the different parts of their letter.
- Give kids time to write their letters.
- Encourage kids to keep and review their letters or give them to a real person.

GOSPEL GAB BAG



Tools: Item 5: “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” (Printables), index cards, marker, small bag

- ☐ Print one copy of “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” per kid. Write each of the following words on a separate index card: God, Jesus, sin, repent, cross, rescue, holy, death, punishment, perfect, eternity, gift. Put the cards in the bag.
- Say: “The gospel is the true story of Jesus’ coming to earth to be the Savior of the world. Believers should be ready to defend and share the gospel with false teachers.”
- Direct kids’ attention to the bag. Explain that inside the bag are words that people often use when sharing the gospel.
- Invite kids to choose one card without showing it to the rest of the group.
- Explain that kids will describe the words on their cards without using the actual word. Then the group will try to guess the word.
- Let each kid take a turn describing their word.
- Distribute copies of “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me.” Ask kids to look on the sheet for the words they guessed. Review the information together as a group.
- Conclude by encouraging kids that have questions about the gospel to talk with a trusted adult at church or at home.



WELL-VERSED IN TRUTH

Tools: Bibles, cardstock, scissors, markers, stickers

- ☐ Cut one 2-by-7-inch strip of cardstock for each kid.

- Say: “Believers should be ready to defend and share the gospel with false teachers, but how do we know whether something about God is true?” (*It is true if it is in the Bible.*)
- Confirm: “We can trust that everything in God’s Word is true.”
- Read each of the following statements, and encourage kids to look up the verse references to determine if the statements are true or false:
 - » If you want to be happy, you should follow your heart. Jeremiah 17:9 (*False*)
 - » Trusting Jesus is one of many ways to go to heaven. John 14:6 (*False*)
 - » In order to go to heaven, you must be a good person. Romans 3:23-24 (*False*)
 - » Everything the Bible says is true. Psalm 119:160 (*True*)
- Give each kid one strip of paper. Instruct kids to write Psalm 119:160 across their paper strips to create a verse bookmark. Invite the group to decorate the bookmark with colorful designs and stickers.
- Encourage girls and boys to keep their bookmarks in their Bibles as a reminder that God’s Word is true and believers should be ready to defend it.



BE MY NEIGHBOR

Tools: Item 22: “Neighbor Cards” (Printables)

- ☐ Print enough copies of “Neighbor Cards” for each kid to take two cards. Cut cards apart.

- Say: “RiverPark church was started in Parkville, Missouri, in 2020, near Kansas City, Missouri. The church started with 14 people meeting in English Landing Park. Today, RiverPark Church meets at Graden Elementary School in Parkville, Missouri.”
- Tell kids that RiverPark Church encourages people to join community groups. In these groups, church members build close relationships with, support, and encourage one another.
- Say: “RiverPark Church helps people and families learn about God, honor God, and connect with their communities.”
- Say: “Community groups help people build relationships. We are going to practice living in community.”
- Form groups of six, and ask kids to sit in a circle. Give each kid one character card and one question card. Ask kids to read their cards silently, then hide them from the group.
- Say: “Everyone will take turns reading their questions aloud. If your character matches someone’s question, reveal yourself.”
- Let kids play until everyone has read their questions and found the person who can meet their need.
- Say: “In community groups, people can use their gifts and resources to follow God’s command to love one another.”
- Pray for RiverPark Church as they reach people in Parkville. Pray for the church leaders as they lead RiverPark church to love their community groups.