

# Study Buddies

## Quick Bible Reference Guides

### JUDE: Defending the Faith Against False Teachers

*Note: This resource was prepared based on the Contemporary English Version of the Bible. It is always good to use more than one Bible version as a reference. This practice will enable you to compare the languages of the translations and gain a fuller understanding of the text.*

#### Overview

The writer of Jude was worried about “godless” people who had sneaked into the church and claimed to be a part of Christ’s followers. These godless ones argued that they could live in an immoral way, because God was so kind and would always forgive them. They even denied that Jesus Christ was their only Lord (4). Readers of Jude were encouraged to defend the faith against the teachings of godless people. And Christians themselves are to be faithful to Christ by living moral lives that are in step with God’s love (21). This means avoiding sinful behavior, helping those who have doubts, and rescuing those who need to be saved. This letter also encourages Christians to “keep building on the foundation of your most holy faith, as the Holy Spirit helps you to pray”—vs. 20 (CEV)

#### Key Points and Verses

Please read the whole book to gain the fullest experience. These points are just a few of the highlights that have been encapsulated from the text.

- vs. 5-7 warnings from the past
- vs. 8-10 insulting powers unknown
- vs. 12-13 unproductive for the kingdom of God
- vs. 16 manipulating for selfish gain
- vs. 20-23 actions to counter false teachers

#### Study Questions

1. How were the “godless people” described in this letter twisting the truth about God (4)?
2. The godless people were willing to take advantage of God’s kindness and used it as an excuse to behave immorally. How could a “godly person” complete the following sentence? “God treats us much better than we deserve, and so...”
3. What selfish and shameful actions spoiled the Christians’ love feasts and celebrations of the Lord’s Supper (12)? According to the writer, what will happen to those who do such shameful deeds? (13)
4. How can the Christians “keep in step with God’s love?” (21-23)

#### Something to Think About

Several metaphors are used in verses 12 and 13 to describe false teachers and their deeds; e.g., rainless clouds, fruitless trees, etc. What was Jude’s purpose in using these metaphors? Are such metaphors applicable today?