

Discussion Guide

questions to help start or continue conversations about faith

Discussion Guides accompany the weekly message.

The Perseverance of Postage Stamps

Postage stamps are getting more expensive, but at least they have one attribute that most of us could emulate: they stick to one thing until they get there.

Think of a time when you really stuck with something and persevered until it was complete. What was it? How did you feel when you went along the way? Did you ever think about giving up? How did you feel when it was finally complete?

Passage: Read the book of Jude

Observation (look at the text):

- v. 1-4 Who is Jude writing to? What blessing does he give? Why is he writing?
- v. 5-10 What reminders does Jude give?
- v. 11-16 How does Jude describe the ungodly people who have slipped in among those he is writing to?
- v. 17-19 What warning does Jude give?
- v. 20-23 What instruction does Jude give?
- v. 24-25 What reassurance does Jude give?

Interpretation (Understand what it means)

- v. 1-2 Jude opens his letter with this reminder: you are called, loved, and kept. And he gives a blessing of abundant mercy, peace, and love. Why does Jude open his letter this way?
- v. 3-10 Why does Jude write about contending for the faith?
- v. 11-16 Why does Jude give example after example of the ungodly people who have slipped in with those Jude is writing to?

- v. 17-23 How are we instructed to respond to such people?
- v. 24-25 Jude opens the letter with encouragement and blessing, and in giving glory to God, he gives the reassurance, "Jesus is able to keep us from stumbling." Why is this reassurance so important?

Application (Apply the Word of God to life):

- v.1-2 Did you know when you received Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life, you immediately stepped into God's call on your life? In this call, you are loved in God the Father and kept in Jesus Christ. Mercy, peace, and love are yours in abundance. Do you need mercy, peace, and love in abundance today? It is yours in Christ, what is keeping you from receiving it? What is keeping you from sharing it?
- v.3-19 As you read the bulk of the book of Jude, are you inspired to contend for the faith? Why or why not?
- v.20-23 What is the key to having the strength to be merciful to those who doubt, snatching others from the fire, and showing mercy to the sinner while hating the sin?
- Read 1 Samuel 30:1-6. This passage tells of a time when David despaired. In the NASB, the Word says, "David strengthened himself in the Lord." This is very similar to Jude 1:20 which reads, "...building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit." These passages do imply human toughness. Rather, when things are very dark, very difficult, and when we are surrounded by example after example that will cause us to despair, we are instructed to trust God alone, and rely on His strength alone. When we do this, we literally experience divine perseverance that flows from a decision to trust God and strengthen ourselves in the Lord.
 - o Have you ever found yourself in a season of life that required you to strengthen yourself in the Lord? Share your experience with your small group to encourage others that are facing a season of life that is causing them to despair.
 - o Are you in such a season? If you are willing to, share with your small group what you are facing. Ask your small group to pray the power and strength of the Lord God Almighty over you. Read v. 24 again and be encouraged that Jesus is able to keep you from stumbling. Trust Him and strengthen yourself in the Lord Jesus.