

# 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?

---

# Study Buddies

## *Quick Bible Reference Guides*

Dear Group Leader:

If you're looking for a straightforward resource to enhance study time with your group, you have come to the right place. Study Buddies give a brief synopsis of the Bible book you wish to study and highlight key points and verses throughout the text. There are also thought-provoking questions included to get the discussion going.

These study sheets were prepared based upon the Contemporary English Version of the Bible. But when studying, it is always good to use more than one version as a reference. We encourage this practice because it will enable you and your companions to compare the language of the translations and gain a fuller understanding of the text.

Study Buddies can be used at church, in the home, or in the workplace (where permitted) **free of charge**. Here are a few ways for you to get the most out of them:

- Use in church classroom settings for both adult and youth groups. Add a little flavor by touching upon topics that are relevant to your community. Are you in an urban setting? Rural? Suburban? How does your community compare to the communities and people of the Bible? Find ties that will make the lessons personal and relevant to the specific circumstances that you are facing.
- Use with people who don't know much about the Bible. Maybe they are new Christians or people who are uncertain about what the Bible is about. These sheets can act as a primer to basic Bible knowledge about the contents of each book and why it was written.
- Use during family time with your teens and pre-teens as a reinforcement to the lessons learned in church. While your son or daughter may already think that they're adults, these study sheets can help you help them transition into adulthood with grace and compassion.
- Finally, use with your neighbors, co-workers, friends and loved ones who have expressed an interest in the Bible. Form a small in home group and increase your awareness of what the Scriptures are saying. Try to develop bonds that will help each of you remain faithful to God and his Word.

We hope that you'll find these study sheets to be an excellent starting point for your lessons.

Sincerely,  
*American Bible Society*