

Jude 1:1-4

Week 1: A Faith Worth Fighting For Jude 1:1–4 | Called, Loved, and Kept

Big Idea: Because we belong to Jesus Christ and have been entrusted with the unchanging gospel, we must stand firm in the truth without compromising the grace that has saved us.

Primary Emphasis: Our willingness to contend for the faith should flow out of our confidence that we are called, loved, and kept by God.

Discussion Questions

1. *What is something in your life that you would consider worth fighting for or protecting at almost any cost? What makes it so valuable to you?*
2. *Jude identifies believers as those who are called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ (v. 1). What does each of these descriptions teach us about our identity and security as Christians?*
3. *Why do you think Jude begins with the assurance of God's love and preserving grace before challenging Christians to contend for the faith? What does that ordering teach us about the Christian life?*
4. *In verse 3, Jude says he was eager to write about our common salvation but found it necessary to urge believers to contend for the faith. What does this shift in his purpose reveal about the seriousness of the threat facing the church?*
5. *What does it mean that the faith was "once for all delivered to the saints"? How should this shape our understanding of biblical authority, doctrinal truth, and the gospel?*
6. *According to verse 4, what were the two primary ways the false teachers were distorting Christianity? How do we see similar distortions in the church or broader culture today?*
7. *Jude warns about people who pervert God's grace into sensuality. What is the difference between genuinely resting in God's grace and using grace as an excuse to continue in sin?*
8. *Where are Christians today most likely to feel pressure to compromise biblical convictions in order to be accepted, liked, or avoid conflict? Where do you personally feel that tension?*
9. *How can we contend for the faith with courage and conviction without becoming argumentative, self-righteous, or unloving toward those who disagree with us?*

10. Are there particular biblical teachings that you find difficult to understand, embrace, or communicate because they conflict with prevailing cultural expectations? How can we help one another remain faithful?

Gospel Connection

11. How does remembering what Christ has accomplished for us change our motivation for obedience? Why is it important that we contend for the faith from a place of grace rather than fear or a need to prove ourselves?

Closing Reflection

12. If someone examined your priorities, relationships, conversations, and daily decisions this past week, what evidence would they see that Jesus and His gospel are worth standing firm for? What is one area where God may be calling you to greater faithfulness?

Leader Notes Theological foundations

- Our identity precedes our responsibility (vv. 1–2). Jude grounds the call to contend in God's saving initiative. We don't fight to earn our place in Christ; we contend because we already belong to Him.
- The faith is a received deposit (v. 3). Jude is referring to the apostolic gospel and the body of Christian truth entrusted to the church. Christianity is not a message the church has permission to reinvent to suit each generation.
- Grace never gives permission to pursue sin (v. 4). Genuine grace both forgives and transforms. See Titus 2:11–14 and Romans 6:1–4.
- False teaching isn't always obvious. Jude describes teachers who had slipped in unnoticed. Their teaching effectively detached grace from holiness and rejected the authority of Jesus Christ.

Facilitating the discussion:

For question 2, emphasize that being called, loved, and kept is the foundation of assurance. The emphasis is on God's action rather than the strength of our own faithfulness.

For question 5, distinguish between the unchanging truth of the gospel and the changing methods through which we communicate it. Faithful contextualization is not the same thing as compromising the message.

For questions 8–10, guard against the discussion becoming primarily a critique of society. Encourage members to identify the more subtle ways compromise can occur in their own lives, including silence, people-pleasing, moral inconsistency, or indifference to Scripture.

For question 11, bring the discussion back to Jesus. The Christian is not called to win every argument but to bear faithful witness to the Savior who has already secured our salvation.

Cross-references: Titus 2:11–14; Romans 6:1–14; 2 Timothy 1:13–14; Ephesians 2:8–10; 1 Peter 3:15.

Prayer prompts: Pray for a deeper confidence in God's preserving love, courage to stand firm in biblical truth, and humility to contend for the gospel in ways that reflect Christ.