

Jude 1.1-2 – the faith

Take 5 minutes to write down what you'd consider to be a summary of the Christian faith. Then share these ideas.

read the whole of Jude. Jot down anything that stands out or any questions that spring to mind. (Don't worry too much about things that appear strange – we'll cover them later!)

This study will focus on only the first two verses. Read Jude verse 1 again. Who wrote this letter? What do we know of his family? (v1a; cf Matt 13.55 nb Judas = Jude)

It seems Jude, James (cf Gal 1.19) and Jesus were brothers. Reflect on how this makes Jude's opening all the more amazing. Why do you think he referred to himself as a servant (literally 'slave') of Jesus but a brother of James (v1a)? What does it say about how Jude perceived both himself and Jesus?

Think about how Jude refers to the Christians he was writing to (v1b). Help each other think about what it means to be called, loved and kept. How do you feel in response?

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read Jude verse 2:

Tell each other stories that are good examples of mercy. Reflect together on what it means to be beneficiaries of God's mercy. What does it mean for you?

Discuss what you think peace is. What is the peace that God brings? How does God's peace show itself in your day to day living?

Talk about the many different ways we use the word 'love'. What is 'love' really? What does God's love look like?

Jude's opening two verses are jam packed with big ideas and are a pretty reasonable summary of the Christian faith. Discuss how it's easy to read these verses and take these things for granted. What might tempt you to undervalue the things you've discussed? What might tempt you to move on from this faith?

Everyone share with the group at least one thing these verses have challenged to change, stop, or persevere with.

Pray!