

## Jude 1.3-16 – contend for the faith

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Discuss some of the things you think are worth fighting for. Why are they worth fighting for? What kind of effort and action goes with the fight?

**read the whole of Jude.** Take a moment to reflect on verses 1&2 and especially the way it helped shape your week.

Your study will focus on verses 3 to 16. Read Jude verses 3-4 again. What did Jude want to write about? What did he write about instead?

What do you think ‘the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints’ means?

Why did Jude have to write this letter?

Read verses 5-7. What are the three examples of judgement and punishment that Jude refers to? Why do you think Jude emphasises judgement and punishment? What place does the promised judgement have in your faith and life?

Read verses 8-10. Who are ‘the dreamers’ and how do you identify them?

Michael was a powerful angel for Israel (see the book of Daniel). What’s the point about authority that Jude is making?

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Read verses 11-16.

Cain's offering to God was substandard (Genesis 4), Balaam was a prophet for hire (Num 22-24), and Korah was a Levite who led a revolt against Moses (Numb 16). Each was ignorant and opposed to God's will but gave an outward appearance of pleasing God. Discuss the problem of (false) teachers putting on an outward appearance as a cover-up for selfishness and disobedience. Is that just a problem for teachers?

Who are the false teachers focused on? (v12a, v16)

Discuss the powerful images Jude employs to illustrate the emptiness of the false teachers and their promises. (v12-14)

What is the end of for the false teachers according to the prophecy of Enoch (v14-15)? How do you feel about that?

conclusion:

Is it worth fighting for 'the faith once for all entrusted to the saints'? Why?

How might false teachers slip in amongst us? Do you think it's tempting to become a false teacher on the issue of God's judgement?

A fight takes effort and action! What practical steps are you taking to contend for the faith?

Pray!