

HOUSEGROUP NOTES: Week Beginning 11th June 2017

HEY JUDE.

TO GET YOU GOING:

You will need one blank piece of paper for each of the group. Have each person start by writing as Jude does on one line, *“Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.”* Then using only as much of the paper as required fold the paper down to cover it so that it can't be seen and pass it left to the next member of the group. That person then writes the next line of the letter which is to be sent to someone on the mission field who wants to know how things are in the UK Church at this time. When everyone has written a line on everyone's letter (and not the same line but a continuation of what they want to say about church life in the UK) the paper is opened out and all the letters read. It should make for interesting reading.

THE CONTEXT ☹️ Read Jude:1-4 & 2 Peter 2 both written in the same era)

Jude encourages us to think about why and how we must fight for God's truth.

Q. Why is it important to constantly remind ourselves about the message of the Gospel? (Vs.3)

Q. When it comes to our opinions on cultural matters what should be the foundation?

Q. Where is the battle ground for God's truth in your life right now? Is it doubt in your own mind that bothers you or is it an ongoing discussion about theology with a family member or co-worker? Is it the pressure of popular culture or something else? TRY TO BE HONEST & OPEN.

Q. In what ways have you been encouraged in that fight for truth and in what ways have you been helped or held back from standing up for Jesus? SHARE.

THE CONTENT:

In the greeting, Jude names himself as the *“servant of Jesus Christ”*. (Vs.1)

Q. How do you think that this best establishes his authority to write this letter and teach God's people?

Q. What is Jude trying to convey to us in telling us this?

God's people are (Vs.1) "*Called.. loved & kept..*"

Q. How do these truths sustain us in our contention for the faith once for all entrusted to us? THINK ABOUT HOW WE ARE CALLED, LOVED & KEPT.

In a message about fighting for God's truth and contending for the *faith mercy, peace and love* seem out of place.

Q. How do these actually aide us in the fight?

Q. Which of these are you in need of most and why?

Q. In what areas do you think God's truth is being sidelined today both in the world and in the church? GIVE EXAMPLES IF YOU CAN.

THE CONFLICT:

Q. Who was making life difficult for Jude's first readers and why? (Vs.4)

Q. Who or what makes living the Christian life hard for us today?

Q. What is the link between a person's morality and their theology?

Q. Is it possible for people with a correct theology to walk in the same moral errors of the people Jude is talking about? If so why?

Q. How can we keep watch on ourselves so that we are not marked by these same problems?

Q. Have you ever had any moments of a faith crisis or things in your life that dramatically shaped your faith? SHARE.

SOMETHING TO TWEET:

"The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible."

(Dwight L. Moody)

Q. Do you think this is true? CONSIDER (Psalm 119:11)

Shaun