



**Key Text: Jude 1:1-25**

**Main Point: Be alert in your faith journey.**

[Provide your typical introduction.]

Welcome, everyone! I'm so glad that you are able to join us. Tonight is going to be a little different. We are have just a one week message called, "Hey Jude." How many of you have heard that song before? More than likely, most of us. It is a really popular song by the Beatles from back in the day. The reason our message is called, "Hey Jude," is because there is a book in the Bible called Jude. It's a way in the back of the New Testament, right next to the book of Revelation. Jude has only one chapter, so we are taking tonight to explore it and see what Jude has to say for us to apply to our lives.

*Pray*

Jude was a half brother of Jesus. He didn't believe Jesus was the Messiah until after Jesus had died when he saw Jesus after He had risen. After that moment, Jude actually became a leader for Christ through being a traveling teacher and missionary. He wrote this letter to a messianic Jewish community to warn them that apostates, who Peter had prophesied about, were already on the scene. If you are wondering, an apostate is someone who abandons a widely-accepted religious belief. These apostates were people who were a part of the churches in this community, too. Likewise, today, some people call themselves "Christians" who in reality abandon the truth of Christ. Jude wrote to this community to encourage them to be alert in their faith journey. It was a call to arms to stick to the truth and not to falter in a different direction. In today's times, we are called to do the same. Let's read.

### **Jude 1-4 (NLT)**

*1 This letter is from Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and a brother of James. I am writing to all who have been called by God the Father, who loves you and keeps you safe in the care of Jesus Christ. 2 May God give you more and more mercy, peace, and love. 3 Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God*

*has entrusted once for all time to his holy people. 4 I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

In this beginning part, we see that Jude had not planned to write about defending our faith in God. At first, Jude was going to write about the salvation we all share through Jesus's sacrifice. But, as we see in verse 4, there were ungodly people in these churches denounced the reality of what it means to be a Christ-follower. They told people that the grace of God allowed them to do immoral things. In all honesty, there are people like that today. They either encourage or allow people to sin their hearts out and say it is okay because of God's grace. While God forgives us of our sins entirely, He never tells us we have the right to sin. If that were the case, then we wouldn't need a savior. We could just keep on sinning and not have a worry in the world. But, that's not true. That's why when we sin we feel guilty. Sin means we do acts that are apart from God. These apostates said it was okay to keep doing acts that will take people further from God.

[Good illustration to use.]

Let's say you wanted to lose fifteen pounds. Now, imagine you are working out three times a week and watching your diet. You start losing the weight, but then a "supposed" fitness trainer comes up to you to give you tips on how to lose the rest. He tells you that you need to eat 10 tacos for lunch each day, drink 8 cups of Mountain Dew each day, and stop working out altogether. Do you think you would lose the rest of the weight? If so, it is because you had to go to the hospital due to a heart attack. The results would cause you to go in the opposite direction. You would more than likely be heavier than you were before.

In the same way, sin causes us to be farther away from God. If we are intentionally sinning, we are intentionally leaving our relationship with God at the altar. These apostates encouraged this and Jude came in to save the day by telling the church community to watch out for these people. He told them to be alert and defend their faith from what these others told them to do.

[If you are using a presentation with this message, this would be a point to display.]

**We are called to be alert and defend our faith.**

Now, let's look at this next section that goes through some of the histories of immorality. This will help us to understand why and how to be alert.

**Jude 1:5-16 (NLT)**

5 So I want to remind you, though you already know these things, that Jesus first rescued the nation of Israel from Egypt, but later he destroyed those who did not remain faithful. 6 And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment. 7 And don't forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion. Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God's judgment. 8 In the same way, these people—who claim authority from their dreams—live immoral lives, defy authority, and scoff at supernatural beings. 9 But even Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, [d] did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but simply said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (This took place when Michael was arguing with the devil about Moses' body.) 10 But these people scoff at things they do not understand. Like unthinking animals, they do whatever their instincts tell them, and so they bring about their own destruction. 11 What sorrow awaits them! For they follow in the footsteps of Cain, who killed his brother. Like Balaam, they deceive people for money. And like Korah, they perish in their rebellion. 12 When these people eat with you in your fellowship meals commemorating the Lord's love, they are like dangerous reefs that can shipwreck you. They are like shameless shepherds who care only for themselves. They are like clouds blowing over the land without giving any rain. They are like trees in autumn that are doubly dead, for they bear no fruit and have been pulled up by the roots. 13 They are like wild waves of the sea, churning up the foam of their shameful deeds. They are like wandering stars, doomed forever to blackest darkness. 14 Enoch, who lived in the seventh generation after Adam, prophesied about these people. He said, "Listen! The Lord is coming with countless thousands of his holy ones 15 to execute judgment on the people of the world. He will convict every person of all the ungodly things they have done and for all the insults that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." 16 These people are



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**Introduction Question:** What is the most annoying alarm that has woken you up? What is your favorite alarm to use to wake up in the morning?

1. Do you know of anyone who is like the apostates? If so, how do they act? [Make sure students don't use names.]
2. How does it make you feel that others will purposefully live in sin?
3. How can you be alert of people who want to deny Jesus and live in their sin?
4. How might these people shipwreck you?
5. What is one way you can seek to be built up in following Jesus?
6. What is one way you can build others up in their faith?
7. Is it hard to show mercy and grace to those who want to live their sin? Why or why not?
8. How does it make you feel to know that when you follow God, He will keep you from falling into the death trap?
9. How much do you think Jesus loves you? Why? [Make sure students know God values them and loves them more than they know.]

**Challenge Question:** What is the next step God is calling you to take this week?

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