



# JUDE

## Read Jude 1–4

This letter begins with words encouraging the early Christian community to be faithful and committed to the Master and Lord, Jesus Christ, and not to be misled by others.

**Reflect:** How are you being encouraged “to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints”? Is your faith one of your important life priorities?

**Pray:** Faith is a timeless, living gift passed on by persons from previous generations to the next. Pray in gratitude for those who have inspired you to imitate their example of living the faith.

**Act:** As social persons, individuals sometimes have problems in their relationships with others (family, relatives, neighbors, at work, home, school, church, etc.). Seek out someone who may be going through a difficult time and offer words of encouragement and support to that individual.

## Salutation

1 Jude,<sup>a</sup> a servant<sup>b</sup> of Jesus Christ and brother of James,

To those who are called, who are beloved<sup>c</sup> in<sup>d</sup> God the Father and kept safe for<sup>d</sup> Jesus Christ:

2 May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.

## Occasion of the Letter

3 Beloved, while eagerly preparing to write to you about the salvation we share, I find it necessary to write and appeal to you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. <sup>4</sup>For certain intruders have stolen in among you, people who long ago were designated for this condemnation as ungodly, who pervert the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.<sup>e</sup>

## Judgment on False Teachers

5 Now I desire to remind you, though you are fully informed, that the Lord, who once for all saved<sup>f</sup> a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. <sup>6</sup>And the angels who did not keep their own position, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains in deepest darkness for the judgment of the great day. <sup>7</sup>Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which, in the same manner as they, indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural lust,<sup>g</sup> serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

8 Yet in the same way these dreamers also defile the flesh, reject authority, and slander the glorious ones.<sup>h</sup> <sup>9</sup>But when the archangel Michael contended with the devil and disputed about the body of Moses, he did not dare to bring a condemnation of slander<sup>i</sup> against him,

<sup>a</sup> Gk Judas

<sup>b</sup> Gk slave

<sup>c</sup> Other ancient authorities read *sanctified*

<sup>d</sup> Or by

<sup>e</sup> Or *the only Master and our Lord Jesus Christ*

<sup>f</sup> Other ancient authorities read *though you were once for all fully informed, that Jesus (or Joshua) who saved*

<sup>g</sup> Gk *went after other flesh*

<sup>h</sup> Or *angels*; Gk *glories*

<sup>i</sup> Or *condemnation for blasphemy*

### Read Jude 5–16

Remembering past events can provide valuable insights along with important faith lessons to be learned and put into practice.

**Reflect:** How have I experienced God in the past events of my life? What helpful things have I learned about living in the present moment?

**Pray:** Pray for help in learning the past as a way of better understanding the present and more confidently facing an unknown future.

**Act:** Take the time to recall specific past events in which God tried to teach you something. Compare your story with another similar story from the Bible.

### Read Jude 17–25

We are exhorted to live in God's love and the mercy of the Lord.

**Reflect:** How have I experienced mercy in my own life?

**Pray:** Prayerfully repeat several times the words "Lord have mercy" in response to the exhortation to "build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit."

**Act:** "Have mercy" and show patience and understanding to someone you know who wavers.

but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"<sup>10</sup> But these people slander whatever they do not understand, and they are destroyed by those things that, like irrational animals, they know by instinct.<sup>11</sup> Woe to them! For they go the way of Cain, and abandon themselves to Balaam's error for the sake of gain, and perish in Korah's rebellion.<sup>12</sup> These are blemishes<sup>a</sup> on your love-feasts, while they feast with you without fear, feeding themselves.<sup>b</sup> They are waterless clouds carried along by the winds; autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted;<sup>13</sup> wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the deepest darkness has been reserved forever.

14 It was also about these that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "See, the Lord is coming<sup>c</sup> with ten thousands of his holy ones,<sup>15</sup> to execute judgment on all, and to convict everyone of all the deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him."<sup>16</sup> These are grumblers and malcontents; they indulge their own lusts; they are bombastic in speech, flattering people to their own advantage.

### Warnings and Exhortations

17 But you, beloved, must remember the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;<sup>18</sup> for they said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, indulging their own ungodly lusts."<sup>19</sup> It is these worldly people, devoid of the Spirit, who are causing divisions.<sup>20</sup> But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit;<sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to<sup>d</sup> eternal life.<sup>22</sup> And have mercy on some who are wavering;<sup>23</sup> save others by snatching them out of the fire; and have mercy on still others with fear, hating even the tunic defiled by their bodies.<sup>e</sup>

### Benediction

24 Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing,<sup>25</sup> to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

<sup>a</sup> Or reefs

<sup>b</sup> Or without fear. They are shepherds who care only for themselves

<sup>c</sup> Gk came

<sup>d</sup> Gk Christ to

<sup>e</sup> Gk by the flesh. The Greek text of verses 22-23 is uncertain at several points