

Remember God's Truth

BIBLE PASSAGE: Jude 3-4, 17-25

MAIN POINT: Jude encouraged Christians to stand strong in the faith.

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How do we live while waiting for Jesus to return?

We remember God's truth, grow in godliness, and spread the gospel.

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Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jude, along with James, was a younger half-brother of Jesus. And like James, it wasn't until Jesus rose from the dead that Jude believed Jesus was the Son of God. Sometime between AD 65 and AD 80, Jude wrote a short letter to warn believers about false teachers. False teachers had secretly made their way into the church, and Jude urged his readers not to abandon their beliefs but to “contend for the faith” (Jude 3).

Jude warned the early Christians that some people would try to divide them by sinning and by teaching things that weren't true. Jude wanted them to not only defend the true teachings but also to actively share the gospel. He told his

friends to show mercy to those who doubt, to lead others to Jesus, and to hate sin.

There are still false teachers today, and some of them still try to sneak into the church itself. God loves us, and He warns us through Scripture to be on guard. We can study His Word to know what is true, and we can rely on the Holy Spirit for wisdom and discernment.

Such a strong warning about false teachers might be reason for panic among believers, but Jude ended his letter reminding them of God's promise. Ultimately, Jesus is the One who protects His people from sin. Throughout history, God has been working out His plan to bring a people to Himself. God will keep us, and He calls us to not only remember His truth but to encourage other believers to defend the faith.

Because of Jesus, we will be able to stand before God with great joy. In the words of Jude, "to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now and forever. Amen" (Jude 25).



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The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Remember God's Truth

Jude 3-4, 17-25

• **Change your pace:**

Slow down when telling bolded portions to emphasize key details.

• **Warning signs:**

Print pictures of various warning signs to display as you tell the story. Remind kids that Jude wanted believers to be aware of false teachers, and letters like this were used as warnings to remember the truth.

Jude was one of Jesus' younger half-brothers. After Jesus rose from the dead, Jude believed that Jesus is the Son of God. **Jude wanted other believers to share this good news about Jesus and to stand up for what is true about Him.**

Jude wrote a letter to his friends.

"Dear friends, I was looking forward to writing to you about the salvation we have in Jesus, but I believe there is something more important to say. I urge you to stand up boldly for what is true—for the faith that God has given to His people."

Jude explained that some people among them made ungodly choices. They used God's grace as an excuse to sin. They denied Jesus, our only Master and Lord.

Jude reminded them that people would make fun of believers and the truth. These people would live however they wanted, sinning against God. These people do not have the Holy Spirit. They are unbelievers who bring division to the church.

But believers build themselves up in the faith to stand for what is right. They let the Holy Spirit guide them as they pray. "Remember God's truth," Jude wrote. "He loves you. Jesus will come and give you eternal life."

Jude told the believers to show mercy to those who doubt, to lead others to Jesus, and to hate sin.

"Now praise God!" Jude wrote. "He is able to keep you from sin. God is our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority belong to Him. Amen."

Christ Connection: Jude warned the early Christians that some people would try to divide them by sinning and by teaching things that weren't true. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life—the One who protects His people from sin. Because of Jesus, we will be able to stand before God with joy.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
ADVENTURE!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover how God's Word can help them grow in the gospel. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Introduce the STORY

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Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, ask them to tell about a time they forgot something. What did they forget? What were the consequences of forgetting?

SAY • We all forget things from time to time. That's just part of being human! It's hard to remember everything all the time, but some things are extra important for us to remember. One of those things is the truth of who God is and what Jesus has done to save us!

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Is That True?" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the "Is That True?" activity page. Kids will circle what is wrong with each picture. They can either correct the picture or simply tell a friend how it should look.

SAY • Sometimes it is easy to tell when something is wrong. In our pictures, what was wrong was often obvious. What do you think is the best way to know when something is wrong?

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: A class divided

Instruct the kids to stand in the middle of the room. You will read a statement and if the statement is true for them, kids will move to the right. If it is not true for them, kids will move to the left. (Example statements: My favorite color is green, I love dogs, I have a brother, I play soccer, and so forth.)

SAY • We are all different from one another. God made us all very different, and our diversity is one of our strengths as a body of believers. Despite our differences, the truth we find in God's Word unites us. Today we will hear about a group of believers who had false teachers telling them things that could have divided them. How do you think they reacted?

OPTION 2: Special memories

Give paper and crayons to the kids and invite them to draw a picture of their favorite memory. Give them time to share their drawings with the rest of the class.

SAY • We all have memories that are special to us. We remember things that we did with a special person or times we went to a special place. As much as we want to remember things, sometimes it is hard to. That's why people take pictures, write in journals, or collect souvenirs. Remembering is important, but it can be difficult at times. Our story today is about remembering that Jesus is the foundation of our faith.



LOW PREP

- paper
- crayons

Transition to teach the story

Teach the STORY

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Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire

[Leader enters wearing a flight suit and carrying a large helmet.]

LEADER • Hello, everyone! Thanks for joining me again today. I'm still preparing for our next space mission. I'm really excited, but I'm also a little confused. You see, my team and I have been practicing our flight plan for months now, and we do it the same way every time. Today someone told me that we needed to do things differently. He claimed to be a trained space engineer, but what he taught is different from what we learned before. Do you think I should trust him? *[Allow responses.]* My gut instinct tells me to stick with the plan that my team and I have been practicing; we know it works because it's what we've been trained to do.

That reminds me of the story we're going to hear today. We'll hear about Jude, Jesus' half-brother, and

a letter that he wrote. Followers of Jesus also had new people coming to tell them how to do things, and the new ideas didn't line up with the sound teachings of Jesus' apostles.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Before we jump into our story, who remembers our big picture question? That's right, ***how do we live while waiting for Jesus to return? We remember God's truth, grow in godliness, and spread the gospel.*** No one knows exactly when Jesus will return, but we do know what God wants us to do until Jesus returns. It's impossible to do these things on our own. We are completely dependent upon God to help us grow in our faith and live in a way that honors and glorifies Him. When we have faith in Jesus He changes us from the inside out!

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline or big story circle.

• Giant Timeline or
Big Story Circle

LEADER • We've learned about letters Paul wrote to remind people how God wants us to live. This week, our story is from the Book of Jude. Jude was Jesus' half-brother, the son of Mary and Joseph. It was hard for Jude to believe that Jesus was really the Messiah, but after Jesus died and was raised to life, Jude realized who Jesus is: the Savior of the world. From then on Jude believed in Jesus and wanted to tell others about how they could receive salvation. He wrote a letter to his fellow believers encouraging them to stand strong in their faith. Our story is called "Remember God's Truth."

- Bibles
- “Remember God’s Truth” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Jude 3-4, 17-25. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Remember God’s Truth.”

LEADER • Not everyone who hears the good news of Jesus will believe it. Some people will reject it, and others might think they can accept only parts of it. Some people even think they need to add to the gospel.

Jude wrote about this. He knew that false teachers in the church were saying untrue things and sinning. The false teachers tried to get the Christians to believe lies and to sin. Jude warned the church to look out for people like that! **Jude encouraged Christians to stand strong in the faith.**

We should do the same. Rather than believing wrong things about Jesus, we can always look to God’s Word for the truth. We can trust that what we read in the Bible is trustworthy and will never lead us astray. If anyone tries to tell us something that goes against the Bible, we will know that person is wrong. Whether they are purposely lying or just don’t know the truth, we can share the gospel with them and pray that God will help them believe the truth.

Christ connection

LEADER • Jude warned the early Christians that some people would try to divide them by sinning and by teaching things that weren’t true. Jesus is the One who protects His people from sin. Because of Jesus, we will be able to stand before God with joy.

Jesus said that not everyone who says they follow

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Jesus will actually be part of His church. Jesus taught that some people would come to disrupt believers, hurting them or leading them away from God. By studying God's Word and remembering what is true, we can more easily spot lies and teach against them.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

- Key Passage Poster
- "Inspired by God" song

LEADER • Jude wrote to warn the people of unbelievers who were trying to lead them astray by teaching false things about Jesus. When people try to tell us things that aren't true about Jesus or our salvation, we can always lean on God's Word for the truth. Because it comes from God, we know that it is true and trustworthy.

Lead boys and girls in singing "Inspired by God."

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • Have you ever been afraid or had a friend who was afraid? Think about that as we watch this short video.

- "Unit 35, Session 3" discussion starter video

Show the "Unit 35, Session 3" discussion starter video. Ask the kids why Nell was afraid. How did Ethan comfort her? How do we know what is true? What should we do if we meet someone who says things that are against the Bible?

LEADER • The Bible warns us about false teachers—people who preach wrong things. Sometimes a false teacher may think he knows the truth when he doesn't. Other times he may be trying to trick believers on purpose. When we learn about people who are teaching lies, we can hold fast to the truth.

Comparing a person's teachings to the Bible is the best way to know if they are telling the truth.

Sing (4 minutes)

• "Hope of Heaven" song

LEADER • I'm so thankful that God gives us the power to stand firm in our faith even when people try to lead us astray by teaching false things. God is so good and gracious to us by giving us wisdom and discernment to know the truth about Jesus. Let's worship God together now.

Sing together "Hope of Heaven."

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • God, thank You for helping us to stand firm in our faith. Thank You for giving us strength to fight against false teaching and for helping us to know and believe the right things about Jesus and the gospel. Help us to read and understand Your Word so we can know the truth in our hearts. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Apply the STORY

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Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- paper
- markers
- balloons
- Allergy Alert download

Before class, write one word of the key passage on a slip of paper. Put the slips of paper inside individual balloons and inflate them. Write the words on paper and make paper wads if anyone in class has a latex allergy. During class, show the key passage poster and read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 aloud with the kids several times. Tell kids to line up single file. Put the balloons or paper wads on the other side of the room from the kids. When you say go, the first kid in line will run to grab a balloon, pop it, and bring the word back. Once the passage is assembled in the correct order, let volunteers try to say the verses from memory.

SAY • Our key passage reminds us how important God's Word is. It gives us truth, and it helps us be ready to live in a way that pleases God. Let's keep working on memorizing the passage this week.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster
- index cards
- marker

Distribute Bibles to kids and help them find Jude 3-4 and Jude 17-25. Remind kids that Jude is the next-to-last book in the New Testament.

Before class, create a set of question and answer cards.

Mix up the cards and flip them facedown. Let one child at a time flip over two cards trying to match the question and the answer. Ask them to read aloud the cards they flip over. Help kids read the cards as needed.

Sample questions:

1. What book of the Bible did our story come from? (*Jude*)
2. How was Jude related to Jesus? (*He was Jesus' younger half-brother.*)
3. Why did Jude write this letter? (**Jude encouraged Christians to stand strong in the faith, Jude 3**)
4. What problem were the believers facing? (*False teachers were telling them untrue things about Jesus and trying to get them to sin, Jude 4, 18-19*)
5. What book of the Bible does our key passage come from? (*2 Timothy*)
6. Where can we read about God's truth? (*the Bible, God's Word*)
7. ***How do we live while waiting for Jesus to return? We remember God's truth, grow in godliness, and spread the gospel.***

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

SAY • Jude wrote to Christians who faced pressure to sin and to stop following Jesus because of what the false teachers were telling them. This will happen to all of us at some point in our lives. Not everyone who hears the gospel will believe it, and sometimes people who claim to know Jesus will teach wrong things about Him. We can stand firm in our faith and ask God to give us wisdom to know His truth. We can also read God's Word and know that the Bible will point us to Jesus.



- large sheet of paper
- pencils

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Strong person drawings

Form smaller groups and give each group a large sheet of paper. One kid in each group will lay down on the paper as his team traces him with pencil. Groups will then think of what makes someone strong. Encourage kids to fill in the outline to create a strong person. They can use drawings or write words. Allow each group to share its strong person drawing.

SAY • Do you know someone whom you think is really strong? What makes that person strong? In our story we learned that **Jude encouraged Christians to stand strong in the faith.** What do you think it means to stand strong in your faith?

OPTION 2: Shield of faith

Distribute poster board or heavyweight paper to each child and instruct him to trace and cut out a shield. Kids will write *FAITH* in large letters and decorate their shields with crayons, markers, and stickers.

SAY • **Jude encouraged Christians to stand strong in the faith.** Sometimes we will have to face people who want us to sin or stop following God. What can we use to protect our hearts and minds? A physical shield won't do the trick, but trusting in God always will! When we ask God for help, He will strengthen us and give us courage. He will also give us wisdom to know His truth. You may remember that Paul taught believers about the armor of God. One part of the armor was the shield of faith. The Bible teaches that faith can protect us from attacks of the enemy.

- poster board or heavyweight paper
- scissors
- crayons or markers
- stickers

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.