

LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Fall 2021

Week of November 14

Studies in 1, 2, 3 John & Jude

DISCUSSION FOCUS

Read (Primary Text): 1 John 2:24–27; Jude 3–4

Supporting Texts: John 15:1–17; Eph 1:14; 1 John 4:15–16; 2 John 9

MAIN IDEA: Remain in Christ and His teachings which we have in Scripture so that you can persevere in salvation and protect the church against false teaching.

OBSERVE

Skim over the short letter of 1 John. How many times do you see the word “remain” or “abide”? *This word appears 24 times in 1 John and 2 times in 2 John.*

Compare the use of this word “remain” (“abide”) in 1 John with the use in the Gospel of John 15:1–17. How many times do you see it in John 15:1–17? *The word appears over 40 times in the Gospel of John and some 11 times in just these 17 verses. Clearly, this word was important to Jesus and to the Apostle John.*

Read Jude 3–4. What was Jude originally going to write about and what did he decide to write about? Why the change? *Originally, it appears that Jude was going to write about the wonders of salvation (maybe like Paul in Eph 1:3–14) but instead, he decided to write about fighting for the faith because of false teachers that had crept into the church.*

INTERPRET

What does the Apostle John mean by the word “remain” (“abide”)? *In 1 John 2:24–27, the meaning of this word has to do with perseverance not only in one’s relationship with Christ, but also in the truth of what is taught about Him. From all 24 references of the word in 1 John, it appears that to “remain” has the idea of union with Christ which is demonstrated by loving others and obedience to His commands. Furthermore, those who remain have the Holy Spirit and nothing to fear at Christ’s Second Coming. Those who remain are those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God and hold fast to that confession. Those who have the truth will persevere because God sustains them through the Holy Spirit (see also Eph 1:14). The same basic interpretation could be made from the use of the word in John 15 from Jesus.*

What is going on in Jude’s short letter that has him change the purpose and content of his letter? *It appears that false teachers have crept into the church unnoticed and are denying Jesus as Lord either by word or deed or both. They live in sin, thus influencing others to join them. To use a football metaphor, it is as though Jude had a play in mind when he was in the huddle but changed the play before the ball was snapped because he realized the situation was different and required a new strategy. The remainder of the short letter describes how these false teachers do not come as a surprise, but their judgment has been foreshadowed by those who have come before. The church needs to be vigilant and defend the truth of the gospel.*

RESPOND

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The content of “that which you heard from the beginning” (1 John 2:24) is defined earlier in 1 John 1:1–4 as the eyewitness testimony about Jesus. How confident are you in the testimony we have 2,000 years later about Jesus in the Bible? How does it help you remain in Him? *The Bible has been preserved for generations and the reliability of it is superior to anything close to it in ancient history. To have the very words and deeds of Jesus through eyewitness testimony should strengthen our faith. It also helps us to know what He expects of us and how He enables us to persevere.*

Do you regularly “fight for the faith once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3)? What does that look like in 21st Century America?

APPLY

All four books this week (1, 2, 3 John & Jude) deal to one degree or another with false teaching. How do we connect the importance of remaining/abiding in 1 John with the fight for the faith in Jude? *We must not only remain in Christ but also in the truth of the gospel. He will enable us to persevere if our faith is genuine, but we must make every effort to remain in orthodox teaching and protect the church against false teachings that are rampant.*

Knowing that Jesus used the metaphor of the vine and branches in John 15:1 – 8, how does this concept of remaining in Him bring you comfort? How does it impact how you live?