

Lake Merced Church of Christ

Home Groups

Contending for the Faith, Part 2 (Jude 17-25)

Ice Breaker

What is one light-hearted vice that you have that you know may not be best for you, but you feel you almost cannot help but enjoy or indulge in? Maybe it's a food, or a TV show, or something else.

Opening Prayer

Spend some time sharing some areas in your life that you might be struggling to live the way that you think God would want you to live out your faith. Share those individually and then pray over them as a group.

Discussion

Read Jude 1-25 together as a group and then discuss the questions below. Make sure all have a chance to participate.

1. In verses 17-18 of Jude, the writer mentions two kinds of people: dear friends and scoffers. According to these two verses, what are the key differences between these two groups of people?
2. Jude claims that these faithless "scoffers" are people who "follow their own ungodly desires," yet isn't that true for all of us? Don't all of us fall victim to following the sinful desires that we have? What do you think the difference is according to Jude? How do you think we know whether those words describe us or not?
3. In verse 19, Jude claims that these people who don't follow godly desires instead follow "natural desires." As Josh mentioned on Sunday, Jude is contrasting *Psuche* (breath in our lungs) with *Pneuma* (breath of life, Spirit of God). Why do you think we find it easier to follow *Psuche* than *Pneuma*? How do we overcome our inclination toward natural desires?
4. Verse 21 mentions the importance of waiting for the mercy of Jesus Christ. When you reflect on the fulness of your life, the things seen and unseen, the things in darkness and in light, what does it mean to you personally to reflect on the mercy that God shows you in Jesus Christ?
5. Lastly, in verses 22-23, Jude address those who are divided, or of two minds. The NIV uses the word "doubt," but it's more than doubt; it's about people who try to live in the world and in their faith. Jude says "be merciful" to them, or put another way, "help them out of their double-mindedness." How do you think you can personally be more engaged in helping people overcome double lives? How do you think the church can do a better job?

Closing Prayer

Review the Doxology in verses 24-25. What do you notice or what stands out to you in Jude's concluding words? What kind of doxology would you pray over your group? Take turns praying your own kind of doxology as you conclude your time together.