

★ Contending for the Faith

A Needful Subject

Lesson 11

The Teacher's Preparation

Scripture Passages to Study: Jude

Study Guide: Read "Contending for the Faith: *A Needful Subject*" from *New Testament Highlights - Part 2*.

Lesson Objective: Why must we contend for our faith so earnestly? Satan obviously knows the value of our faith, and he does all he can to destroy it. He will inspire people to try to destroy churches by destroying the lives of the Christians who attend them.

Lesson Application: I will contend, or fight, for my faith!

Memory Verse: Jude 3



"THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MINE HEART..."

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

—Jude 3

The Teacher's Checklist

- Activity Worksheets and Pencils
- Attendance and Record Notebook
- Lesson Plan
- Cue Card
- Memory Verse Card
- Music Player
- Visual Illustrations for the Lesson
- Attention Getter: Toolbox

Teacher Tips

Make sure to encourage your students when they show improvement in any area.

They should be praised for bringing a Bible to church, for dressing up, and or for knowing a memory verse.

Look for every opportunity to praise the good that they do.

The Teacher's Lesson Plan

Materials: Toolbox

For safety reasons, keep the toolbox and tools out of reach of your students.

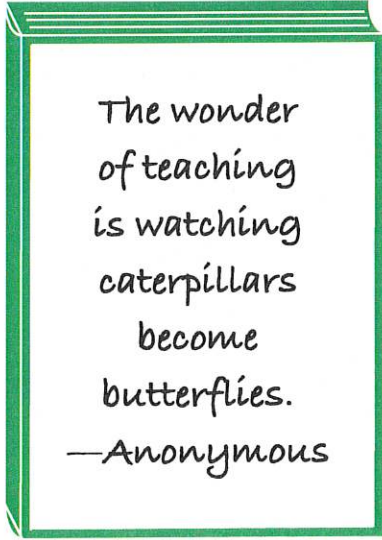
What You Could Say:

Whenever I need to repair something in my home—perhaps the dishwasher, a cabinet, or a bicycle—I always look for this toolbox. Let me show you the different kinds of tools I keep in here. [Show the class the different tools. Perhaps you could ask students to name some of the more familiar ones like nails, wrenches, or hammers.]

You learn many things in church and in Sunday school which are “tools” to help you in your Christian lives. You learn how to obey your parents and teachers and other older people, how to treat other children, and many other lessons that will help you to be what God wants you to be. You learn about the Bible and about the people whom God has set up as examples—sometimes good and sometimes bad—for us. Most importantly, you learn about the Lord and about how He wants us to be with Him in heaven one day. Isn't it wonderful that we can learn these things with our family and friends every week?

Now, imagine that you are the only person in your family who comes to church. Would you still do what God wants you to do, even though you do it alone? Would you defend Jesus Christ if other people made fun of Him and what you do for Him? In today's lesson, we will learn that we sometimes have to defend what we believe.

Teacher's Notes



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A Needful Subject

4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 11

This lesson is about a letter that was written by Jesus' half brother, Jude. Jude wrote a letter that directly addressed some issues in the church. The main point of his letter was to encourage Christians to contend for the faith. *Contend* means to "claim that something is true." Many people in the world today are trying to convince us that what we believe is not true. We need to know what we believe and why we believe it so that we can stand up for right!

Our Faith Was Delivered to Us

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

—Jude 3

Some people have a religion that is based on the opinions of people. Some people make up lies and call them the truth. But what we believe, our faith, is directly from God. God told Paul to put certain ideas in the Bible that are a part of what we believe. The doctrines of salvation and baptism and many other doctrines are found in the Bible. They have been passed down through the years, and we need to hold to them today.

Contending for the Faith

Because we have such a wonderful faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, it is important that we defend our faith in times when Satan sends people to try to fight against it. It is sad that anyone would try to make trouble in the church and preach what is not in the Bible. But the Bible warns us that there will be people who will say what is not true. These people are wicked. They do not love God. We need to make sure we study and know the Bible so that when someone preaches what isn't true, we will be able to know that it is wrong.

The Bible says that we are supposed to *earnestly* contend for the faith. To do something earnestly means that you do it with fervor. It means that you are to perform that act in a sincere and serious way. We can't just sit back and allow people to fight against our faith! We need to correct those who are trying to tear down the Bible.

God's Judgment

When Christians decide that they are not going to keep the faith any more, they will suffer God's judgment. The Old Testament contains the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. The people of that city were so wicked that God destroyed them with fire and brimstone. When people choose not to keep the faith, they eventually turn away from God and forget all that He has done

for them. Some people may not experience judgment on earth, but they will be sorry for not standing for right when they get to heaven someday.

The Christian's Choice

But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; how that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

—Jude 17-21

Each of us has a choice to make. Will we choose to contend for the faith? Or will we just accept new teachings that are against the Bible? Some people will try to do everything possible to go against the teachings of the Bible. They are going to try to convince people that the Bible is not true and that we should not have to obey God's Word. Although it will be a battle, we must decide that, no matter what happens, we are going to keep the faith and fight for what is right. Some will say that salvation isn't by grace. Others will say that baptism doesn't have to follow salvation. Some people will say that it is okay to have rock music in the church. These are all false teachings from the devil! We need to fight for the faith and stand up for what is right!

Teacher's Notes
