

## **Introduction:**

I remember playing outside one time with a buddy during spring break, and a white van drove up, stopped in front of my house, and said they had a question for us...

Life is a lot like a little kid who is walking to school, but a van drives up opens the huge side door, and a “nice” man offers them a ride, some candy, a fun day, etc.

## **Need:**

We need to look at Satan and sin as something even far more dangerous, scary, and tragic than kidnapers and their lies to lure little children.

## **Bible:**

Jude 1-2

Who is Jude? Who is Jude written to? Jude loves His church! Jude loves his church enough to... Jude is the brother of James who is the brother of Jesus which means that Jude is the brother of Jesus. But Jude chose to associate with Jesus as Jesus' servant/slave and not Jesus' brother. Although he had a tight family relationship, He sees Jesus as Master!

Jude 3-4

What is Jude about?

He was just going to write about their common salvation. But...

Jude was actually going to write to them about salvation, God's love, the gospel. As maybe a way to pump them up, encourage them, associate with them, etc. Instead, Jude gets real with them because he loves them as his church, His people. Jude loves them enough to get serious, get real, tell them what's up, and warn them about life's dangers. We love you enough here to not sugar coat it, but give you the honest truth.

Contending for the faith.

Jude just called the church to contend for the faith. He's saying to actually be a legit Christian, you are going to have to fight, strain, strive, play hard, and go all out.

Contending can be a word used to fight in a war or to compete in a sport. Either way, can you imagine watching the news and watching a soldier not going all out to fight for us in enemy territory? A soldier who is flirting with the enemy? Or could you imagine watching your high school baseball team have a player who wouldn't actually run the bases, hustle in the outfield, or throw as hard as he can to beat the runner? Not on our watch! If you're fighting or playing for us, we want you to go 110%. You get killed for less in a European soccer country! Ha. But why do we think its okay for us to go half way, play a little for the enemy and play a little for our team when it comes to to faith in Jesus? Faith is not just a knowledge of Jesus, faith is a life that that is lived for Jesus. Faith is not just an agreement that the gospel is true, but living the truths of the gospel!

He says that people have crept in the church.

If you have crept in the church, what does that make you? A creeper! Yes! So there are creepers in the Bible that God warns us about. Check out what a biblical creeper is. One who were designated (prophesied) about long ago who are ungodly people, pervert God's grace into sensuality, and deny the Master and Lord, Jesus. The Old Testament writers warned us thousands of years ago about these creepers who might come into the church, or call themselves a Christian. Their actions are ungodly (not mirroring Scripture), they take God's grace for granted...particularly in the area of sexuality..., and by doing so they deny Jesus as Master and Lord. This all means, you can tell a person is a Christian not just by their confession but by their direction. A Christian isn't just one who accepts Jesus as Savior for His grace, but one who repents from their sin and to Jesus as the Lord for His life. That is dying to ourselves and living to Jesus as our Lord. (Jose Luis?)

### Jude 5-8

Back to the OT. The Bible series. Jesus in the middle of it all. 3 stories of judgment. He gives us some stern warnings here about some people who God has already destroyed. He gives us a glimpse into the judgement of God for sin.

1. Jesus led and destroyed Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land. Jesus leading is by the pillar of fire and cloud by night and day. Jesus destroying is speaking of God's promise to judge them for their disobedience and disbelief in the wilderness. It is talking especially about the time that Israel disbelieved the two positive spies, grumbled against God, and wanted to pick a new leader to go back to Israel. God wanted to destroy them. Moses interceded with prayer. God promised that none of the original Israelites would actually get into the Promise Land.
2. The angels in Genesis 6. These angels left their proper dwelling place, took on human form, and made babies (had sex) with women. Its a sign to us not to leave our proper dwelling because of attraction or curiosity. But to remain in purity until marriage.
3. Sodom and Gomorrah. God destroyed this place for their incredibly gross rebellion and wicked lifestyle.

These false teachers are in the church. There are false teachers outside of the church. The point is don't fall for, buy, or believe the lies wherever you are. Inside or out. The identity of the false teachers. How do you spot a creeper?

Verse 8: rely on their own dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, blaspheme glorious ones.

Verse 16: They are grumblers, can't be satisfied, do whatever they want, cocky and loud, they are always taking advantage of people to get a better standing in life.

A friend can be your creeper.

A family member can be your creeper.

An acquaintance can be your creeper.

An idol can be your creeper.

A parent can be your creeper.

Satan can be your creeper.

You could be the creeper!

## **Story:**

Lion killing zoo worker.

## **PWR:**

Throughout the OT, you have Israel spiraling downward in sin to where it seems like barely anyone believes in the truth anymore. Even the priests and kings are corrupt. It seems as if only the OT prophets are living for God, and that's because of God's grace and call in their lives. But then one Israelite comes on the scene and changes everything. In fact, it was said that He was born of an Israelite woman but no Israelite father? God is His Father? His name is Jesus, claiming to be like Joshua, naming meaning to save His people from their sin. He came on the scene and claimed Himself to be The Truth. He claimed to live the real way for God.

## **Story:**

My weekend in Panama City. My 3 hours in Daytona during spring break. The conversation I heard on the beach during spring break from a hook-up. Spring break is coming up. Some are going to the beach. Many may be staying at home by themselves. Spring break and summer is always a time for temptation and sin. Here's what Jude says on how we can keep ourselves safe from the creepers.

## **App:**

Jude 17-21

How do you contend for the faith and not believe the lies of the world? Here's how to persevere, not believe the truth, how to follow Jesus, and how not to be judged by Him. For Yourself:

1. Remember the warnings.
2. Build yourself up in the faith.
3. Pray in the Holy Spirit.
4. Keep yourself in God's love.
5. Wait on Jesus' mercy to come.

For Others:

1. Show mercy on doubters.
2. Save those going to hell.
3. Show mercy with fear by hating sin.