

LESSON 1

A DEVELOPING NEGATIVE

JUDE



1 What diseases do you hope to avoid at all cost?

What locations? _____

What jobs? _____

What personal contacts? _____



Read the introductory material to Jude, Jude 1:1–25, and the following notes:

☐ 1:4 ☐ 1:7 ☐ 1:20 ☐ 1:21 ☐ 1:23 ☐ 1:24 ☐ 1:25

2 Who drags Christians down (1:4, 17–19)?

3 How can Christians guard themselves from the influence of godless people (1:17, 20–23)?

4 What should strong Christians do for weaker ones who have been dragged down by godless people (1:22, 23)?

The early church had a problem with phony believers. On top of the ordinary pressures of life, these new Christians had to live with people who claimed to be Christians but lived godless lives. Such people were a real threat to the church because they dragged down weak Christians. Jude wrote to tell the believers to avoid such negative examples at all cost. It is easy to become discouraged when we see someone else set a bad example. But don't let that person's attitudes or actions drag you down. Instead, build up your relationship with God daily through prayer, Bible study, and worship.



5 Why is it discouraging to see others set a godless example?

6 How can Christians protect themselves from being discouraged by others' hypocrisy or failings?

7 How can you tell when someone is being dragged down by a godless example?



8 Whose godless example has hurt or discouraged you?

9 How can you keep someone's godless example from discouraging you?

10 Who has set a positive Christian example that encourages you?

11 How can you become a more positive Christian example who encourages others?

12 What do you need to do this week to avoid being dragged down by the negative example of others?

13 Think of a fellow Christian who is discouraged by a false teacher or someone's godless example. How could you reach out to that person and encourage him/her?



A What are false teachers (1:4, 8–13)? What is the difference between this kind of false teacher and a misinformed Christian? What can you do to help guard your church against false teaching?

B What has happened in the past to those who have led God's people away from him (1:5–7)? What does this tell you about God? What will happen to those who lead Christians away from Christ? How can you bring your own values more in line with God's priorities?

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