

*"Defend the faith  
that God has  
once for all given  
to his people."*



YEC  
2023  
JUDE 3

*Leader Guide*  
FOUR ROUND STUDENT BIBLE STUDY



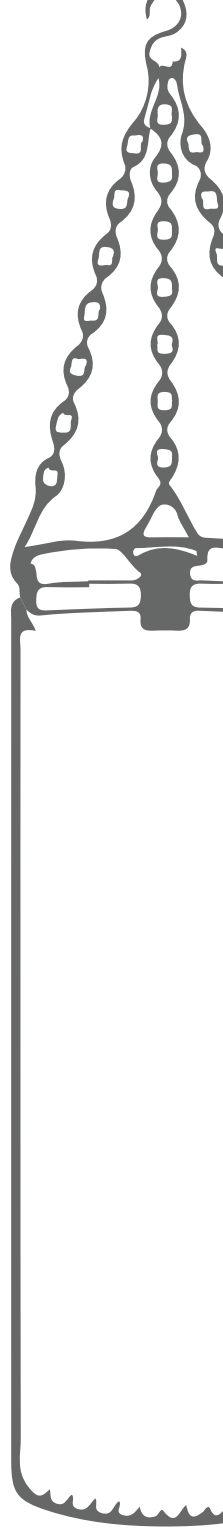
LET'S GET  
**READY**  
TO RUMBLE!



## *Leader Guide*

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# INTRO: TIME TO FIGHT!

Jude, a follower of and half-brother of Jesus, wrote to warn his fellow believers against “ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God ... and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” There are people who have crept into the midst of Christians and are influencing people in such a way that is corrupt and ultimately denies Jesus. Therefore, Jude calls them—and us!—to “contend for the faith.” In other words, don’t just sit back in holy huddles, fight for the faith!

Using the life of the Old Testament character Daniel to illustrate what it looks like to fight for the faith, we’re going to learn how to:

**Fight from Confidence in Christ:** A personal relationship with Jesus Christ enables us to fight *from* victory, not *for* victory. We can be confident and courageous in our fight.

**Fight from Communion with God:** Be weary of stepping on the spiritual battleground until we’ve spent time worshiping at spiritual holy ground. This round is practical habits and spiritual disciplines that are the training grounds for our fight.

**Fight for Community with Others:** No one goes to war alone; *who* you choose to battle alongside daily is one of the most important decisions you’ll make in the Christian life.

**Fight for the Cause of Christ:** There is no such thing as a Christian who stands on the sideline. The second you become a Christian is the second you are enlisted to fight. It’s not *if* you’re called to the mission of God, it’s just a matter of *where* and *how*.

The ungodly—those against Jesus—have locked arms with culture and are standing and shouting for you to deny Jesus in what you believe and how you behave. It’s time to get off the sidelines, get in the game, and fight for the faith that’s been handed down to you. **ARE YOU READY?**



# ROUND ONE

*ding*  
***ding***  
*ding*

# *Fight from Confidence in Christ*

## READ

**Jude 1:1:** "Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ ..."

**1 Corinthians 15:57:** "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

## WARMUPS

1. What's something you are super confident about?
2. Think about the godliest person you know. What are some qualities about that person you admire?



# FIGHT NEWS



## FOR RELEASE: ROUND ONE

Nebuchadnezzar was the cruel and ruthless King of Babylon who had overtaken God's people. Daniel was a young man and worshiper of God chosen to serve in the King's court.

Even as King Nebuchadnezzar imposed the Babylonian way of life and worship on the entire land, Daniel stood up for his God in remarkable ways and held strong to his faith even when the consequence of death stared him straight in the face. In Daniel 3, Daniel and his friends fight for the faith by refusing to bow down and worship Nebuchadnezzar knowing there would be dire consequences for their decision.

How did Daniel have such confidence and courage? Just as Jude 1:1 reminds us, Daniel was able to fight **from** confidence knowing he was "called" and "beloved in God." His confidence came not from his skills, strength, or ability. His confidence came from his God.



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# GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What do you know about the person of Daniel? How does he display confidence and courage?
2. Read Daniel 3:16-18. What gives Daniel's friends confidence?
3. Daniel and his friends would've known the words of Deuteronomy 20:4, "for the LORD your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory." How would it change how you view circumstances if you truly believed this and knew you were fighting *from* victory instead of *for* victory?
4. Read Jude 1:1 and 1 Corinthians 15:57. How does God give us victory "through our Lord Jesus Christ?" How does the gospel—the reality that God has already done everything necessary for you to be saved from your sin and empowered to live the Christian life—empower believers to fight from courage?
5. What area of your life do you need to apply the gospel to in order to become confident in Christ?

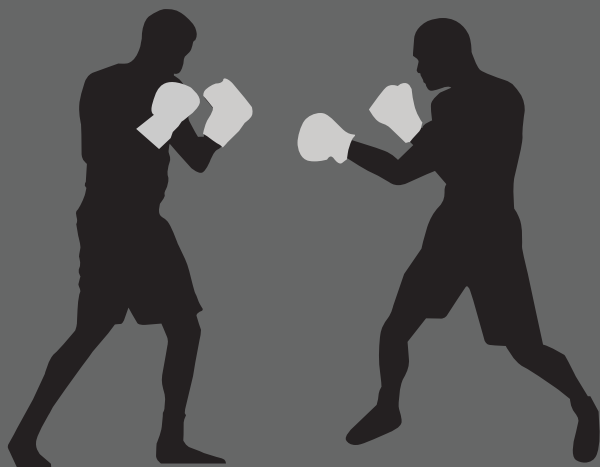
## PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank God for choosing you and calling you his beloved in Christ.

Confess areas of your life where you've been operating from your own strength (religion) rather than God's strength (gospel).

Ask God to give you the confidence in life that comes from believing the gospel.

# ROUND TWO



# Fight from Communion with God

## READ

**Jude 1:20-21:** “But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.”

**Daniel 6:10:** “When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.”

## WARMUPS

1. What is your favorite hobby? How much time each week do you think you spend doing that hobby?
2. What is the most *important* thing you do each week and why?

# FIGHT NEWS



## FOR RELEASE: ROUND TWO



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We all love a good fight in a blockbuster movie. Whether it's the Avengers fighting Thanos, a Disney princess fighting for her romance, or Rocky Balboa fighting Ivan Drago, we all love that moment when the battle comes to its peak, the music is blaring, adrenaline is high, and we anxiously await the hero's inevitable victory!

You know what's not as exciting? The training process by which that hero becomes strong enough to win their fight. It's exhilarating to get an A+ on a big project you worked on. It's not as exhilarating thinking about the hours you had to study to get that A+. We love the payoff, but few love the process. Sadly, this bleeds into our relationship with God as well. We all want the blessing of God, but are you willing to "build yourself up in the faith" as Jude 1:20 says?

This round is all about the habits we build to fight for the faith. Few things are more important than going into the fight knowing you have spent time communing with God.



# GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Daniel 6:4-10. What role does prayer play in Daniel's fight for his faith?
2. In verse 10, why is it significant that Daniel prays "as he had done previously?"
3. How can following Daniel's example of regular prayer and devotion to God help us in our own struggles to maintain our faith and fight against temptations and challenges?
4. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

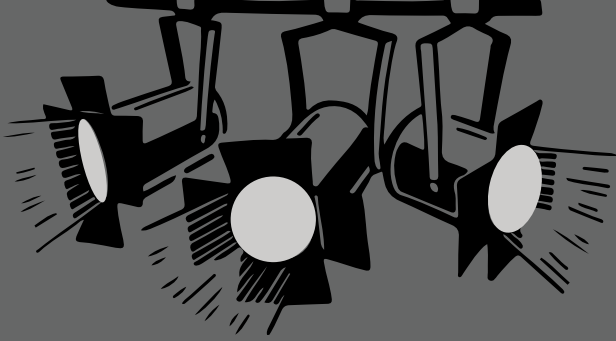
Why do you think it's important to spend time reading your Bible each day? How can the Bible help you in your fight for the faith?

5. How can you cultivate a lifestyle of prayer, Bible reading, and communing with God in order to better equip yourself to fight for the faith?

## PRAYER PROMPTS

Confess the areas of your life where you've practically put more importance on than your relationship with God.

Ask God to help you cultivate habits that draw you closer to him.



# ROUND THREE





# Fight for Community with Others

## READ

**Jude 1:3:** "Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."

**1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV):** "Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'"

## WARMUPS

1. What do you look for in a friend?
2. Would you rather have one best friend or 20 regular friends?

# FIGHT NEWS



## FOR RELEASE: ROUND THREE



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It's fairly common to hear the story about Daniel and the Lion's Den. Or the one about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego getting thrown into the fiery furnace. In each of these stories their faith in God proved to be their saving grace—quite literally!

But did you know long before the furnace and the den they were four friends all encouraging one another in their faith? In fact, Daniel 1:19 says that when the King spoke to them "among all ... none was found like Daniel" and his three friends.

It has long been said that you are the average sum of your five closest friends. What that means is that your friends basically determine your future.

You want to fight for the faith like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? You better surround yourself with others who are fighting for the same Kingdom as you are!



# GROUP DISCUSSION

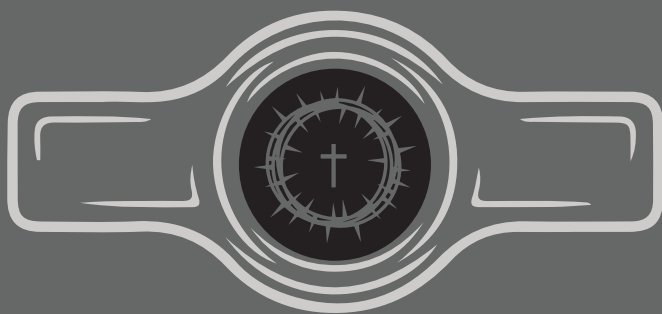
1. In what ways does community play a role in helping us fight from a place of strength and courage? Can you think of any examples from your own life where support from your friends made a significant impact in a battle you faced?
2. Read Proverbs 10:17, 13:20, 18:1, and 27:17. What do these Proverbs tell us about who we surround ourselves with?
3. Think about the five closest people to you. If you were to become the sum average of all of them, what type of person would you become?
4. What are some ways you can maintain close friendships and community despite living in a digital world?

## PRAYER PROMPTS

Ask God to reveal areas of your life where you're not encouraging others in their walk with God.

Thank God for the gift of friendship in your life, or spend time asking him to bring brothers and sisters in the faith alongside you to fight this battle!

# FINAL ROUND



# Fight for the Cause of Christ

## READ

**Jude 1:3, 22-23:** "Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints ... And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire."

**2 Corinthians 5:18, 20:** "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation ... Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us."

## WARMUPS

1. If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?
2. Have you ever been on a mission trip?

# FIGHT NEWS



## FOR RELEASE: ROUND FOUR



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Sometimes it seems like there are different levels to Christianity. On one hand there are the CEO Christians (Christmas and Easter only). On the other end of the spectrum are missionaries who give up everything to move to a third world country to serve Jesus.

It may feel like you have little in common with Daniel—a young man trying to live for God while being enslaved to a tyrannical empire and its King. However, as culture is increasingly antagonistic to Christians, if you want to do great things for God you better be prepared to stand out for God like Daniel.

If the goal of the Christian life was just to go to heaven when you die, then God would have snatched you up the second you placed your faith in Christ. But he has a mission for you. Yes, YOU!

The Christian life isn't a playground, it's a battleground. Your mission is to step on that battleground with the power of the Holy Spirit to tell people about Jesus. He makes his gospel appeal to others through you. What an honor and privilege!





# GROUP DISCUSSION

1. As you read Jude 1:3, 22-23 what do you see is the primary thing you're fighting for?
2. What do we learn from Daniel's life about staying true to the mission of God in an anti-God culture?
3. How does staying focused on the mission of Jesus and the cause of the gospel give us the courage and strength to fight against temptations and challenges in our own lives?
4. What are some ways to cultivate a heart for the mission of God and a commitment to Jesus in our own lives?
5. Think about the person who told you about Jesus. What feelings come to mind when you think about them?
6. The question is not *if* you're called by God into mission. The question is only *where* and *how*. Where and how do you believe God is calling you to engage in being an ambassador for Christ?

# PRAYER PROMPTS

Ask God to give you a heart that desires his will above your own.

Praise God through prayer using the closing words of Jude: "To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen."

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# IF YOU JUST PRAYED TO RECEIVE CHRIST,

text **LIFE** to **888123**

Msg&data rates apply

We have a brand new NAMB resource that we literally just launched. It is called LIFE Essentials: A Digital New Believers Guide for Students.

Instead of a booklet or pamphlet... it is actually 6 short videos done by Paul Worcester and I talking about what to do now that students have received eternal LIFE. What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?

They can receive these through a text response on their phone. If they text LIFE to 888-123... they will receive a link that takes them straight to these videos. In fact, feel free to text-in to check them out yourself.

I will be using this for a lot of the places I preach for those that just make a decision for Christ, but we're also making it available for anyone to use.

It is an absolutely FREE resource that you can use anytime you want. Use it at your church, ministries, evangelistic events, camps, DNews, or anytime you have new believers.

If you'd like a high resolution graphic to use for screens, email us at [spruitt@namb.net](mailto:spruitt@namb.net).

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# FIGHT

IN A CULTURE THAT BOMBARDS STUDENTS WITH IDEAS CONTRARY TO THE WORD OF GOD, AND WHERE TEMPTATION IS INCREASINGLY ACCESSIBLE AND ANONYMOUS, STUDENTS MUST LEARN TO HOLD FAST TO THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL, LIVE DISTINCT, HOLY LIVES, AND FIGHT FOR THE FAITH-FOR THEMSELVES AND OTHERS.

HERE'S THE BEST PART: THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S. HE FIGHTS FOR US AND EVEN DEFEATED DEATH. GOD'S WORD PREPARES US TO STAND UP TO EVERY CHALLENGE WE FACE WITH COURAGE SO WE CAN POINT OTHERS TO JESUS IN GRACE, LOVE, AND TRUTH.

THIS FIGHT IS AS OLD AS GENESIS, BUT THE BATTLE IS ALREADY WON. WHICH CORNER WILL YOU CHOOSE?



*WV Convention of  
Southern Baptists*

