

What Really Matters
Pastor Dave Patterson
5.10.2020

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Jude 3]

I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

The Church cannot fail! The local church remains the hope of the world.

A scared world needs a fearless church.—A.W. Tozer

[Hebrews 12:28-29]

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our "God is a consuming fire."

[Jude 1-3]

This letter is from Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James. I am writing to all who have been called by God the

Father, who loves you and keeps you safe in the care of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more mercy, peace, and love.

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

Don't fall asleep at the wheel, Church!

[Acts 2:32-33, 36-47]

"God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today.

"So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!"

Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God." ⁴⁰ Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

[1 Timothy 3:15]

“This is the Church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth.”

7 Keys to Contending

1. **Saved** and baptized (Acts 2:38)
2. **Added** to the Church (Acts 2:41& 47)
3. **Connected** in Community (Acts 2:46)
4. **Submitted** to the Word (Acts 2:42)
5. **Giving** to help others (Acts 2:45-46)
6. **Praying** consistently (Acts 2:42)
7. **Praising** God daily (Acts 2:47)

Epagonezomi = contend, fight, struggle, to exert great effort and strength

As a believer, if you're not contending, you're coasting!

FOR MONDAY—

- 1. Read Acts Chapter 2 and ask God how you can personally build the Church.**
- 2. Take time to contend for someone living in spiritual paralysis.**

TALK IT THROUGH

- 1. Are you living your life for what really matters? During this quarantine, what top 3 things have mattered most to you?**
- 2. What does contending look like? What kind of faith was entrusted to the saints?**
- 3. *A scared world needs a fearless church.*—A.W.Tozer. How does this speak to your part in the church?**
- 4. Of the seven New Testament keys, which do you need to live out at a deeper level?**
- 5. What is the difference between contending and coasting, as a believer? Where do each lead?**
- 6. Pastor Dave said that the church “has turned a corner and that we will not be content to go back to church as it was.” What do you think that will look like?**
- 7. Who do you need to contend for or reach out to this week?**