

2 and 3 John and Jude

Memory Verse: *Contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints* (Jude 3b NIV).

Lesson Helps:

“How am I going to teach three books in one lesson?” you might ask. The key here is to find a common thread or theme running through them all. Notice the emphasis on “the truth” in 2 and 3 John and on “the faith” in Jude and the warnings against false teachers in all three letters. Your aim might be: My students will learn to hold fast to the one true faith, so that they will not be led astray by the false cults of today.

Introduction: Ask two students to help with the background of these letters, one introducing 2 and 3 John, the other the epistle of Jude. They could consult a Bible dictionary for help. Their presentations should be brief.

2 John: Notice the references to "truth" in each of the first four verses. What warning and instruction is given regarding false teachers in verses 7-11?

3 John: Again notice the references to truth in verses 1, 3-4, 8, and 12. What positive instructions are we given regarding those who belong to the truth (vv. 5-8)?

Jude: What is the purpose of Jude's letter (v. 3)? You might begin your lesson by asking your students to put together a list of statements summarizing the essentials of “the faith once for all entrusted to the saints.” How does Jude describe the doctrine, behavior, and judgment of the false teachers (vv. 4-19)? How should we respond to such false teaching (vv. 17-25)?

As part of your study, it may be wise to expose some of the false teachings and groups of today. You may need to do some advance research on the cults. In addition, here are seven test questions that can be used to evaluate any religious group:

1. Do they base their teachings on revelations or secret writings other than the Bible?
2. Is their primary task to proclaim the gospel as set forth in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4?
3. Do they believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son of God who became flesh (i.e., that he is truly God who also became truly man)?
4. Do they believe that Christ's shed blood is the *only* basis for the forgiveness of their sins?
5. Do they believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead bodily?
6. Do they trust personally in Jesus Christ as their own Savior and Lord?
7. Do they depend on efforts of their own for their salvation, or is their trust *exclusively* in what God has done for them?¹

Assignment:

📖 Read Revelation 1–3.

📖 Memorize Revelation 3:20 NIV.

¹ Adapted from Gordon R. Lewis, *Confronting the Cults* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1974), 6-7.