

Earnestly Contend For The Faith

Small Group Discussion Guide

"Earnestly Contend For The Faith"

BASED ON THE TEACHING OF PASTOR MIREK HUFTON

1. SERMON RECAP

In this message, I challenged us to take seriously the battle for genuine, Bible-rooted faith in a world flooding with false doctrine, compromise, and accommodation. Drawing from 2 Peter, Jude, and 1 Timothy, I showed how false teaching doesn't usually crash through the front door -- it sneaks in quietly, sounds reasonable, and slowly pulls people away from the truth of God's Word. My heart behind this message is simple: I don't want to lose another young person, another family, or another believer to doctrines that scratch itching ears instead of building deep, unshakeable roots.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

Jude 3 (NKJV)

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."

3. ICE BREAKER

Think back to a time -- as a kid, a student, or even an adult -- when someone tried to talk you out of something you deeply believed in. What was it, and how did you respond?

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Getting into the text together:

Jude says to "earnestly contend" for the faith -- not just hold it quietly, but actively stand for it. What does earnestly contending for the faith look like in your everyday life -- at work, at school, in your family? Where does that feel easy, and where does it feel really hard?

2. Going a little deeper:

In 1 Timothy 4:1, Paul says the Spirit "expressly" warns that in the last days some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons. That's a strong warning. Without pointing fingers at anyone specific, what kinds of teachings or cultural messages do you think are most quietly pulling believers away from solid Biblical truth today?

3. Personal reflection:

I talked about how false teaching often doesn't look obviously wrong -- it starts with a portion of the truth and slowly drifts further and further from the whole counsel of God's Word. Has there ever been a teaching or idea you once accepted that, when you measured it carefully against the Bible, you realised wasn't quite right? What helped you recognise the difference?

4. The Word as our anchor:

In 2 Peter 1:19, Peter says the Word of God is a "more sure" foundation than even a dramatic open vision he personally witnessed on the Mount of Transfiguration. Why do you think it's so tempting for believers to chase spiritual experiences, feelings, or popular opinions rather than staying anchored in the written Word? What disciplines help you keep the Word central?

5. For the parents and mentors in the room:

I shared how deeply it grieves me to watch young people who grew up in strong, Word-filled churches walk away after a year or two at university or in the workforce. What do you think the church, families, and individual believers can do better to prepare the next generation before they face that pressure -- not just emotionally or spiritually, but practically and intellectually?

6. Bringing it home:

2 Timothy 4:3 warns that people will "heap up for themselves teachers" who tell them what they want to hear. Honestly and graciously -- are there any areas of your own life where you've been tempted to listen to voices that make you comfortable rather than voices that challenge you to grow? What would it look like to invite more truth-telling into your life?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, choose one specific person in your life -- a child, a grandchild, a friend, a coworker, a fellow believer -- who you sense may be spiritually drifting or facing pressure to compromise their faith. Don't preach at them. Instead, simply reach out with genuine love: send a text, grab a coffee, make a phone call. Let them know you're thinking of them and that you're available. Then pray for them by name every single day this week. Contending for the faith often starts with contending for one person.

6. PRAYER POINTS

- For deep roots: Pray that every person in your group -- and especially the young people connected to your families and church -- would have such a strong, living foundation in God's Word that no false teaching, cultural pressure, or spiritual deception can uproot them.
 - For courage to stand: Pray for boldness to be visible, unapologetic believers in your workplaces, schools, and neighbourhoods -- not aggressive or unkind, but unashamed and full of love for people who need the truth.
 - For those who have drifted: Pray specifically for believers you know who have walked away from solid Biblical faith -- that God would pursue them with His grace, open their eyes to the truth, and bring them back to the fullness of what He has for them.
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7. MEMORY VERSE

Jude 3 (NKJV)

"Beloved... contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."

Leader's Note: Don't feel pressure to get through every question. Let the conversation breathe. Your job isn't to have all the answers -- it's to create a safe space where people can wrestle honestly with the Word together. If things get personal or vulnerable, that's a gift. Slow down and go there.