

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

Scripture

Jude 3-4, 12-25

Session Summary

Jude would rather be optimistic, but the seriousness of the problem demands a different tone (v. 3). If they don't "contend for the faith that was delivered to the saints once for all" (v. 3), there may not be much of a shared salvation left to write about. Part of contending the right way is about knowing what is worth fighting for and what is not. Jude told believers to fight for the faith and salvation and against the twisting of the gospel for the sake of sin. Every issue is not a gospel issue, so we need to discern between ideas that undermine the very nature of the gospel and those that do not. For example, we may cordially disagree over the doctrines of baptism, election, spiritual gifts, end times, and the like, but we may not make peace with the rejection of Christ' deity, the truthfulness of the Scriptures, or the subordination of grace to law.

In our fight for the faith, we must be careful to guard against the very divisive spirit we are seeking to combat. The key to contending without being contentious comes down to motive. We don't contend for the faith for the sake of argument, but for the sake of love. Our aim is to tear down lies for the sake of building up, saving, and showing mercy (vv. 20-23). Too often, we get a thrill out of feeling like we "won." We want to be seen as valiant for truth. When Paul instructed Timothy to guard the doctrine of the church, he said to do it with the "faith and love that are in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 1:13-14). We must crucify the flesh daily and seek to stand for truth in a way that accords with the fruit of the Spirit.

- What are some ways we may need to stand up boldly for the faith?
- Why is it important to understand that every doctrinal issue isn't worth fighting over, and how can that translate to our family dynamics as well?
- How can we guard against being contentious and argumentative?
- How can we guard against being too passive and completely avoiding conflict? How can we view conflict as an opportunity?

As a family, break into pairs and have one person put on a blind fold. Set out various objects on the floor or yard to create a minefield, then have the other teammate direct them through the minefield. The person directing can only give verbal directions, and the one who's blindfolded isn't allowed to speak at all. Afterward, discuss how we sometimes have to speak up to protect others. We should not speak out about something in order to cause a fight, but we must speak up to protect the church and to "save others by snatching them from the fire (v. 23).