

THEY JUDE

What is big to Jesus should be big to us

Jude 3-4 Message Reflection Guide

As human beings, we are prone to seek out information that supports the opinions we hold. Such was the case in King Ahab's rule over Israel. When he and Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, discussed whether to go to war against Ramoth Gilead, Ahab gathered 400 prophets—men he'd appointed to that role himself and would therefore tell him what he wanted to hear—to help them decide. Each replied he should go, saying "God will give it into the king's hand" (2 Chronicles 18:5). Jehoshaphat asked whether there was a prophet who had been chosen by God through whom they could inquire of the Lord. Ahab responded reluctantly because God's prophet, Micaiah, "never prophesies anything good about [him], but always bad" (v. 7). Indeed, Micaiah indicated they wouldn't be victorious, and the people would be "scattered on the hills" (v. 16).

In reading their story, I see how I too tend to avoid wise advice if it isn't what I want to hear. In Ahab's case, the result of listening to his "yes men"—400 prophets—was disastrous (v. 34). May we be willing to seek and listen to the voice of truth, God's words in the Bible, even when it contradicts our personal preferences. **By: Kirsten Holmberg**

CONVERSATION STARTER Share a story about a time you were saved from making a bad decision because you listened to sound advice.

GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES **Read Jude 3-4, John 14:6**

On Sunday Pastor Jason said: **Contending for or defending our faith means we need to be passionate about the truth of God first and foremost.** The word contending implies being well prepared or conditioned. What is your preferred way to study the bible? What bible concepts do you find difficult to understand?

As followers of Jesus we need to be wise in the word. What does it mean to "contend earnestly for the faith"? What step would you like to take this year to grow deeper in your knowledge of who Jesus is?

As followers of Jesus we need to value truth over opinion. What are the dangers of placing a priority on our own opinions over the truth of the bible?

As followers of Jesus we need to be examining the loyalties of our heart. Our hearts can often be divided, what do you sense causes division in your heart?

MAKING IT REAL

Is your passion for God's word growing or waning? What opinions do you hold that contradict the truth of God's word? What distractions get in the way of remaining loyal to Christ?