



Adult Learning Opportunity
Next Steps with the Bible: Going Deeper and Growing Stronger

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Oct 16: Understanding the NT Letters: Instructing and Correcting the Churches

1. Review of Week 4: Basic Steps of Inductive Bible Study

- Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, Application
- Apply this to Jude 3-4

2. Examples of ancient letters

- Numerous everyday letters (papyri) have been discovered in Egypt.
- Acts 9:2; 15:23-29; 23:26-30
- Paul (13 letters)
- Peter (2 letters)
- James
- John (2 letters by "the elder")
- Jude
- Hebrews, 1 John, and the "letters" to the seven churches (Rev 2-3) are not really letters.

3. Characteristics of ancient letters

- "*Ad hoc*": Situational/occasional
- Prose language with occasional sections that are poetic, prophetic, etc.
- Logical flow: propositional linear argument containing instruction and exhortation.
- The chunks are typically presented as paragraphs in English translations
- The NT letters contain direct apostolic teaching for the Church.

4. Conventional Structure: how were letters written?

- Opening
 - Author, Recipients, Greeting
- Preliminaries
 - Personal comments, well wishes, prayer
- Body
 - Opening, middle, closing are sometimes noticeable
- Closing (Postscript/benediction)
- How does Jude match up to this typical structure?

Opening: _____

Preliminaries: _____

Body: _____

Closing: _____

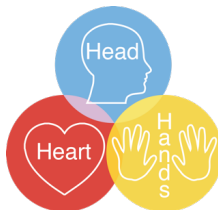
5. What is the argument of Jude? How does it develop?

- Find the body of the letter . . .
- Read through it several times . . .
- Take note of the logical flow of thought . . .
- Note the paragraph divisions as indicators of the main ideas . . .
- Pay attention to the conjunctions . . .
 - (*and, also, as, but, yet, if, because, for, although, . . .*)

- Summarize the main ideas and how they fit together:

- State Jude's argument in one sentence:

- This process becomes more difficult with the longer New Testament letters, but it can be done by finding the main sections and how they fit together.



Sanctify them through your truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17)

