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## **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, your promise to us is that we can live a life where we will not stumble, yet life is full of obstacles. Help us to see these obstacles and to have the wisdom, desire, and strength to recognise when obstacles need to be avoided, confronted, or moved. We know you want what is best for us, so we put our trust in a God who never fails. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## WARM UP

Was there a time that you remember falling down? What happened? How did you respond? Describe how you felt in one word.

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<sup>24</sup>Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, <sup>25</sup> to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

<u>Jude 1:24-25</u>

Jude speaks boldly about trusting in a God who will keep you from stumbling and who will present you as blameless. When we read the entirety of Jude's one chapter, we can see that two things emerge in the context he writes:

- 1. Jude is writing to an audience who are caught in being religiously inward and are not engaging with those around them for fear of losing their position of privilege. This caused an unhealthy bias towards people who were not Jewish believers.
- 2. Jude is addressing the false teaching that waters down the power of the Gospel that keeps the church inward-focused and battles secret sinful habits, rather than walking in victory and outward compassion for the lost.

These are the two things that Jude addresses, and we should also address them in our own lives: our discrimination of others and our habitual areas of sin. Jude shows us that Jesus is able to keep us from stumbling.

## **■** GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

- 1. On a scale from 1 to 10, how would you rate your obedience towards God in times of hardship? Why do you rate yourself this way?
- 2. Jude addresses the church's tendency towards discrimination of non-Jewish people. Do you have friends that speak this way to you when they see something wrong in your life (for married people, other than your spouse)?
- 3. Does God get all the glory in your life? If so, can you describe what this looks

like? If not, why might you say this is the case?

- 4. Do you have habits that hinder your growth in God? Are you willing to give them over to him, so that you can grow? If so, how can we pray for you today? If not, what might be the greatest hindrances as to why you would not want to give the habits up right now?
- 5. Gospel-centred empowerment causes us to give power away. How might you be able to give your power away to those who are powerless?

