

Beyond Sunday

Title: **Kept for and by Jesus**

Preacher: **Austin Hochstetler**

Bible Verse(s): **Book of Jude**

Date: **November 22, 2026**

GATHER

These questions help us build connections with one another as we share personal experiences.

- Think about someone in your life who made you feel safe, protected, or cared for. What did they do that communicated their care for you?
- When you think about the world around you, where do you most long to see things made right?

GROW

These questions guide us through the Scripture from Sunday's sermon, helping us observe the text and understand more deeply what Jesus is teaching.

Read Jude 1–4 and John 10:11–18.

1. Jude introduces himself as a servant of Jesus Christ and describes believers as those who are "called, loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ" (v. 1). What does it mean to be kept for Jesus? How might this truth shape the way we view our relationship with Him?

2. In John 10, Jesus contrasts the Good Shepherd with the hired hand and the thief. What distinguishes the Good Shepherd's care for His sheep? How does this help us understand Jude's warnings about false teachers and leaders who use people for their own benefit?

Read Jude 5–16.

1. Jude recalls several Old Testament examples of God's judgment, including Cain, Balaam, and Korah (vv. 11). What do these stories reveal about God's justice? Where do you see God's mercy in these accounts? How do these examples shape your understanding of the relationship between God's justice and mercy?

2. Jude describes false teachers as shepherds who feed only themselves (vv. 12–16). What are some of the behaviors Jude identifies that damage a community of faith? Why is protecting the vulnerable an essential expression of the church's responsibility to care for its people?

Read Jude 20–25

1. Jude gives believers four instructions in verses 20–21: build yourselves up in faith, pray in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love, and wait for the mercy of Jesus Christ. Which of these practices stands out to you? How do these practices help us remain close to the Good Shepherd?

GIVE / GO

These questions help us apply the sermon's takeaways and consider how God is calling us to respond.

1. Jude calls the church to protect the vulnerable and establish boundaries against behaviors that harm others. What does it look like for our church, Life Groups, and individual relationships to be places where people are safe, known, and protected?

2. Who in your life might need you to extend mercy, listen without judgment, or help them find their way back to Jesus?

Next faithful step: Consider someone who may feel distant from God, isolated, or in need of encouragement. Act on one practical step you can take this week to help them experience the mercy and care of the Good Shepherd.

PRAYER

In light of the book of Jude focus your prayer time on:

- **Thanksgiving:** Thank Jesus that He is the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep, lays down His life for them, and never abandons them.
- **Protection:** Pray for those who have been hurt, abused, overlooked, or taken advantage of. Ask God to bring healing, justice, and people who will faithfully protect them.
- **Mercy:** Ask God to give you wisdom to recognize harmful behavior while maintaining a heart of compassion toward those who need His mercy.
- **Faithfulness:** Pray that your group and church would be communities that protect the vulnerable, hold one another accountable, and welcome those who are seeking their way back to Jesus.

Close by praying this from **Jude 24–25:**

"To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen."

GOING DEEPER

If you are interested in exploring the themes of this week a bit deeper, consider one of these:

Video

Book of Jude by the Bible Project

https://bibleproject.com/videos/jude/

Book

What if Jesus was Serious about Justice? By Skye Jethani

https://a.co/d/0b1DEoRR

Practice:

Explore local and global resources and take a step towards bringing *justice* to the world. Here are a few examples:

- Covenant World Relief: https://covchurch.org/serve-globally/covenant-world-relief/
- Grafted Families: https://www.graftedfamilies.org/
- Immigrant Hope: https://www.immigranthopesl.org/