

## September 3 - 9

Love and Mercy

**Icebreaker:** When did someone show you mercy in the past? Talk about the situation and how you responded to their gift of mercy?

## Read Jude 20-23

- What are ways we build ourselves up in the faith?
- What is praying in the Holy Spirit? (see also Romans 8: 26–27)
- Why are building our faith and praying in the Spirit necessary to keep ourselves in the love of God?
- What practical ways have you "kept yourself in the love of God?"
- When have you experienced mercy in your life?
- Describe what a person looks like who is merciful?
- What does an unmerciful person look like?
- Where else in Scripture do we learn about mercy? (See Hosea 6:6, Matt 12:7) What do we learn about mercy from those passages?
- How is showing mercy related to the consequences for actions?
- How can we as believers show love and mercy without also approving of a person's sin?
- Have you seen people not accept the love and mercy being given to them? Why might people reject them?
- Why is love and mercy an integral part of our relationship with God?
- How can we snatch others out of the fire? (see also Jude 7, Amos 4:11)
- How are mercy and fear related? How does healthy fear lead to a hatred of the flesh and sin?

## Read Jude 24-25

- Why is it significant that it is "him who is able to keep us from stumbling," rather than keeping ourselves from stumbling?
- Talk about the hope you can draw from the truth that Jesus will be the one who will joyfully present you blameless before God.
- How is your heart drawn to the description of Jesus in verse 25?

