

14 What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? **15** Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, **16** and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

17 So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

18 Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds."

19 You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. **20** How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

21 Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? **22** You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. **23** And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God. **24** So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.

25 Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. **26** Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

— *James 2:14-25*

Discussion/Journal Questions

Of your friends and family, who is someone you would describe as faithful? How have they shown themselves faithful?

Have two or three people read James 2:14-25 out loud slowly. After a some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

According to James, even the demons have faith/belief about God. What is the difference between the belief of the demons and the faith James calls us to have?

Is it possible to have faith without deeds? What would that look like?

Some feel as though James and the Apostle Paul contradict each other. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. Are James and Paul arguing or agreeing with each other? Why?

What kind of good works do you think James is looking for?

Is your faith show up in your actions? If not, how can your group help you grow in this area?