

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 10/8/2023

James 2 – Faith. Action. Wisdom.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Highlights

- What would your brother have to do to convince you that he was the Son of God?
- Verse 1-4 – When you decide where people should be based on how they look, **are you trying to become God?**
 - Favoritism – allowing outward portions of a persons life to be your judgement of their character.
- Verse 12-13 – There is judgement, so act like one who is judged, not the one who will judge.
 - Only God is wise enough to judge us
 - We should look at others with mercy; it's the way we want to be judged by God
- Verse 14-16 – When God stirs you, **DO SOMETHING!**
 - As Jesus followers, we are called to **RESPOND** to the needs of others. Why?
 - We are made in God's image, and so are they; we're the same.
 - God has responded to our needs; it's who God is
- Verse 17 – Faith, by itself, is dead (and dead means dead!)
 - Is Ephesians 2:8-9 contradictory? (HINT: continue on to Eph 2:10)
 - No – faith in Christ is the **ROOT** of our life (Eph 2:8-9)
 - As Jesus is changing our lives, out of the overflow, we are to **DO** (works) – that is the **FRUIT** we produce because our faith roots run deep.
 - **We are created to do, not simply believe.** (Eph 2:10)
 - We are called to live differently.
- Verse 18-19 – Even the demons believe (have faith) and they do **SOMETHING**: they shudder
 - They have an emotional reaction or response to knowing who Jesus is.
 - They know they cannot change the eventual outcome of victory over evil, so shudder.
 - They are moved; they have a response to God.
- **3 types of faith**
 - **Dead faith** – focuses on belief without living it out. Belief with no action.
 - My faith doesn't move me at all
 - It's something I say without doing
 - People who say they are religious often have dead faith. They talk about all the things that make them religious, but don't live out a changed life in Christ
 - **Demon-like faith** – Jesus is exactly who He says He is, I believe it, and it causes an emotional reaction but no true change to the way we live
 - Firm belief with no action; just a short lived response
 - **Life Changing Faith** – Jesus is who He says He is leads to a surrendered life that leads us to put into action the things of God **EVERYDAY**. It shows others Jesus is changing my life.
 - **Where are you?**
 - **If you say Life-Changing, share HOW Jesus is changing your life.**
- Verse 20 – James is say, so you Hebrew people, you want some evidence that faith and action go together?
 - What about Abraham. He was impactful, not just because he was faithful, but because he showed it through action, taking his son Isaac up the mountain to sacrifice him.

- What about Rahab. She was not Hebrew, and a prostitute. Yet she believed in Yahweh, she let her faith become deep, and she showed it through action, hiding the Hebrew scouts sent to Jericho before they attacked.
- **If your faith doesn't change the way you live, it doesn't mean much.**
- Tim told the story of picking oranges from a tree that had fruit that had blue and red coloring running through the rind. When he asked about it, the guy told him,
 - **The tree is dead and doesn't know it yet.**
 - The tree is dead but is still producing, but the fruit isn't useful.
 - **When we are dead and don't know it, we're producing fruit but it's not Jesus.**
 - They way you live reveals the state of your heart.
 - **Have there been seasons in your life when you've been doing all the "right" things, but actually you're dead?**
 - **How do you feel about that statement??**
- **What is faith producing in your life?**
 - We are not meant to stay unchanged when we say "yes" to Jesus

Today is the day you can come alive!