

James: Faith in Action
Faith without works
James 2:14-26

TALK IT OVER

Passages

"14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead." – James 2: 14-26 (ESV)

Start Talking: Find an announcement or mission for your group. (15 Min)

- February 12: Super Bowl Party - Invite some unchurched friends or friends/neighbors that are disconnected
- Feb. 22: Attend Ash Wednesday as a Life Group
- Was there any one thing that you most agreed with or disagreed with from last week's message? What was it and why?

Head: Start Thinking about the Text. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- The sermon text was James 2:14-26 and can be found on the left-hand side. To keep the study fresh please read Matthew 7:15-20 in your Bible for your life group's main text.
- Why can't a good tree produce bad fruit or a bad tree good fruit? What is the message Jesus is trying to get across?
- How are people recognized by the things that they do? Is it always easy to see the difference between good and bad fruits?

Heart: Start Sharing how the Text is shaping our beliefs. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- What do you think is the difference between making a poor choice and producing bad fruit?
- How has the Holy Spirit worked in you to be an image bearer of God? How have your good works been evidences of your faith?

Hands: Start living the Text. Commit to believing or obeying the text this week. (10 Min)

- What can you do to bear good fruit this year?
- Start a Lenten Reading plan/devotion .

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. Pick a question. (15 Min)

1. Who is one non-believer or someone without a church home that you need to reach out to this week?
2. What kind of conversations are you having with people you are reaching out to?
3. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
4. What's a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
5. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.