

Givin' What You're Given

"Talent: Faith Works"

GETTING STARTED

ICE BREAKER: What kind of "good deed" are you most likely to do for someone else?

KEY THOUGHT: ***Faith without transformed behavior cannot make you right with God***

GETTING THE POINT

Read James 2:12-26

1. This passage argues that faith without works is dead. How do you reconcile this with the idea that we are saved by faith alone?
2. How does the distinction between "faith alone justifies, but faith that justifies is never alone" (John Calvin) impact your understanding of salvation?
3. James gives an example of someone offering a blessing but withholding resources (2:14-17). How should this example impact our approach to helping others in need?
4. How does Rahab's faith, despite her background, demonstrate the inclusivity of God's grace? What lessons can we learn from her story?

GETTING DEEPER

Read Romans 3:20-25

1. How do you reconcile James 2:24 and Romans 3:20?
2. How can James say works are necessary, and yet justification be a gift (Romans 3:24)?

GETTING PERSONAL

1. Why do you think faith communities tend to either over-emphasize good works or over-emphasize faith? Have you experienced this in your own spiritual journey?
2. What does it mean for faith to lead to transformed behavior? What is one expression of transformed behavior you've seen in your life? What do you hope to see in the future & why?
3. How can we be more intentional about using our talents and resources for the benefit of others, as James emphasizes through sharing and sacrifice?
4. Martin Luther said that faith is a "living, busy, active, mighty thing." In what ways can you make your faith more active in your personal or group life?

PRAY...

that our faith will be proved real by transformed behavior.