

6. What is most difficult about loving others as we love ourselves?

7. Can we love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, but still have trouble loving our neighbours?

# JAMES:

## A SERVANT OF GOD

*Connection Point Groups  
Week #5*

### **PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAISES FOR THIS WEEK:**

(Missionary of the Week: Chris & Ericka Cissler in Uruguay)

### **CONNECTION POINT GROUPS PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

Developing lifelong relationships that influence others to live and love like Jesus.

**TONIGHT'S TEXT: JAMES 2:20-26** *“But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*”

### **INTRODUCTION:**

If we could be saved by good living alone, God's gracious work for us would be unnecessary. Works that are worshipful are only possible through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is the acting out of the gospel in works of worship that James is encouraging us to do.



**FAITHWAY** Planting A Passion For God  
BAPTIST CHURCH

## **DIGGING DEEPER INTO THE TEXT:**

Read verses 20-25. How did Abraham and Rahab demonstrate their faith? What words are used to describe them?

1. In verses 24-25, James uses the word “justified” to describe Abraham and Rahab. Look up the word “justified” in a good dictionary, like the Oxford English Dictionary. What are the possible definitions?
2. In verse 24, when James says “faith only,” what type of faith is he referring to?

## **INTERPRETATION OF THE TEXT:**

James offers two dramatic examples of people acting on their faith in God: Abraham trusting God enough to put his only son on an altar and Rahab believing Israel’s God was the God of heaven and earth, proved by hiding the Israelite spies.

1. Can you think of any other examples of great faith that are ***not*** found in Hebrews 11?

**Note:** These acts did not save them, but they displayed their saving faith. Our faith is demonstrated primarily by loving our neighbours as God directs.

## **APPLYING THIS BIBLE PASSAGE TO OUR LIVES:**

As you seek to apply this passage to your own heart and life, pray for the Holy Spirit’s wisdom and insight. Our tendency is to worship ourselves, and we need the Holy Spirit’s guidance to reveal where we need to turn our worship back to God.

1. How have you tried to “pay God back” in response to your sin?

**Note:** This may take the form of bargaining with God, behaviour modification, or endlessly serving at the church out of guilt.

2. Is God’s grace enough for you? Why or why not?
3. Do you tend to excuse yourself from serving? Why?
4. Is there something you can commit to doing as an act of worship, not to achieve salvation but because of it?
5. How would you say loving God is tied to loving our neighbours? How does loving others demonstrate our faith in God?