

The Rhino, The Bison, & The Lamb: Week 3

Discussion Guide

Discuss:

- How do the trials we face build our faith? (5 min)
- Why are our good deeds so important to expressing our faith in Jesus? (5 min)
- Have you ever tried to use good works to earn favor with God? Why does that not work? (5 min)
- If we view faith as allegiance or loyalty, how does that solve the apparent contradiction between faith and works? (5 min)

Scriptures:

- **1 Peter 1:6–7 (NLT)** “So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.”
- **James 1:2–3 (NIV)** “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”
- **James 2:14–26 (NIV)** “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have deeds.’ Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what

he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,' and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

- **Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)** "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
- **John 6:28–29 (NIV)** "Then they asked him, 'What must we do to do the works God requires?' Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.'"

Challenge:

(Same as last week): What is your next step in expressing your faith in action? (10 min)

Prayer:

(Same as last week): Read [James 5:13-16](#) aloud. Point out that the prayer of faith can heal the sick, whether that sickness is physical or spiritual.

Encourage people to share physical sickness needs with the group and pray over them but also encourage them to text confessions of sins they need to be healed from. Men should have a male number to text and women a female number. Each should reply to the text with a prayer for that person.