

Faith Does

RELATE

What from Sunday's sermon did you find most helpful to understanding salvation?

How have you observed a follower of Jesus live his or her faith well this week?

Why do you think are there so many fake Christians?

READ & REFLECT

James 2:14-26 **Genesis 15:1-6, 22:1-12**

The scenario presented in verses 15-16 could be a comedy skit if it weren't so sad. How does it go? (Act it out!) How would you answer the question in verse 16? What good is it to offer good wishes or a pat on the shoulder, but no practical help?

In verse 18, we see two kinds of faith. How are they described? So then, verse 19 is referring to the "without works" kind of faith. What does it say about that kind of faith? Why do you think James chooses the oneness of God as the example of basic faith and not, say, the atoning death of Jesus?

In James 2:20–24, there's reference to Abraham as proof of the point. How does Abraham prove that "faith without works is useless"? How did these actions demonstrate Abraham's faith? James quotes Genesis 15:6. What does it say about Abraham's faith? What does it say about his works?

Do you think it's significant that the faith of Genesis 15 came several chapters before the works of Genesis 22? Does faith generally come first?

Rob reminded us of Paul's teaching on salvation, "We are saved by grace through faith in Christ, not by works" (Eph. 1:5, 8-9). James says "Faith without deeds is dead." Are James and Paul at odds? How do you reconcile these two seemingly contradictory perspectives? How would you explain the role of faith and works in our salvation to someone new to, or inquiring about faith?

James mentions Rahab as a person of exemplary faith. Share what you know about her story (see Exodus 2:1-21). Was it a mistake for James to mention her along with Abraham as an example of faith? What do you think James hoped to accomplish by using her as a model of real, working faith?

Has serving and giving because of your faith in Christ grown your faith? In what ways?

RESPOND

Challenge Can you put yourself on a regular schedule of serving? Consider tutoring kids at IPS 105, helping sort clothes at LambsWear, offering transport to elderly neighbors, or handyman services to single parents in the church. Don't just think about doing something—get it on your calendar.

Memorize As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. James 2:26