

Week of November 6 - "Visible Faith" - Small Group Lesson Lesson 7

Connect

If you got into a Taxi and as it went, you noticed the heater was on during the summer, would you complain? If the driver said, "My job is to take you from point A to point B and that's it. The temperature is not something you pay for," how would you respond? Would you be angry, humble, or say nothing at all? Why?

Verses - James 2:14-19 (CSB)

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can such faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed," but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way faith, if it does not have works, is dead by itself.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe—and they shudder.

Study

1. What answer is James expecting at the end of verse 14? Why did you come to that conclusion? What reasons are there that someone would think otherwise? (James 1:25 ; Romans 5:8)

2. What comes first, faith or works? What evidence does James say results from faith that saves?

☕ **DISCUSS 1:** How should the gospel impact the lives of the brother or sister of a believer? How does this preach the gospel? What did Jesus say about this? (John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:20)

🏃 **APPLY 1:** What happens when someone lacks food and clothing? What are other examples of brotherly love that results from faith? (Examples: James 5:16; 1 Peter 3:8, 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Mark 9:40-41)

3. Why is it impossible to demonstrate saving faith without action? When someone changes their attitude towards others, what does the Bible call it? (1 John 3:17)

☕ **DISCUSS 2:** What impact does favoritism, the main topic James spoke of prior to this, have on ministering to others? How could favoritism result in producing *inactive* faith?

🏃 **APPLY 2:** What should we do when we feel it is a burden to care for others? What verses help in such situations? (Psalm 50:15; James 5:13)

Share

How does the Holy Spirit factor into this? What do the fruits of the Spirit have to do with an active faith *that has works*—of a repentant believer? (Matthew 3:8)

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray that we have strength to love others as Christ loved the church.
- Pray for strength to serve in ministry.