

Faith ALIVE!

A study in the Book of James Lesson Four

**Gold River Calvary Chapel
Women's Bible Fellowship**

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A Study in the Book of JAMES

Gold River Calvary Chapel Women's Ministry

Lesson Four

James 2:14-26

Summary: *This week we will learn how we know our faith is alive.*

Step One: Read the Word

"In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:3 (CSB)

This study uses the English Standard Version Bible translation (ESV), which is provided for you in each lesson in Step One. Please use that version to fill in blanks or answer questions, but you are encouraged to read as many translations as you like in order to get a fuller understanding of the scripture.

In Step One, try to determine the "who, what, where, when or how" of the passage. Look for words that are repeated often, and circle any key words and underline phrases that stick out to you. Use the column to the right to jot down any notes, scripture references, or questions you might have.

Remember to always pray before you read God's Word, asking the Holy Spirit to open the scripture to your understanding.

Complete Step One by reading and marking up James 2:14-26, below, and answering the questions that follow.

James 2:14-26

English Standard Version

Faith Without Works Is Dead

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was

active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;

²³and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Step 1 Questions:

1. What example does James use in verses 14-17 to show the difference between what one says they believe and what one does with that belief?
2. What point is James making through the examples of Abraham and Rahab in verses 18-26?

Step 2: Consider the Word

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...” Colossians 3:16 (CSB)

Re-read James 2:14-26 and answer the questions below. (Remember to use the English Standard Version (ESV) translation provided in Step One to answer).

1. James states in verses 14-17 that true faith is more than just what we *say* we believe; faith is backed up by actions. Why do you think true and living faith would show itself in other-centered actions, such as showing kindness to the poor and needy?
2. Look up the verses below that we read in the first two chapters. How do these verses agree with the point James is making in verses 14-17?

James 1:26:

James 1:27:

James 2:8:

3. See verse 19. Based on this verse, why do you think that just believing that God exists is not saving faith? What part does good works play in that belief?

4. James makes this statement in verse 24: "You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. "

Many people have used this verse to say that we are saved by doing good works, not just by faith.

A rule of bible study is that we let the bible interpret the bible. Look up the following verses and write them in the space provided:

John 6:28-29:

John 3:21:

Matthew 3:8:

John 15:8

Ephesians 2:8-10:

(Question 4 cont.)

Based on the scripture you looked up on page 6, and by reading our verses in James more closely, check the statement below that you think most accurately reflects what James is saying about a saving faith?

- We earn our salvation by doing good works
- Our salvation is a free gift; therefore, I don't need to worry about doing anything good
- Our salvation is a free gift, and my faith in Jesus will be shown by works that give God glory

5. (a) If, as Ephesians 2:8 clearly states, our salvation is a free gift we cannot earn, who do you think inspires us to do good works?

(b) Who do we look like when we do good works?

(c) Who gets the glory?

6. See verses 20-25. We learned from James 1:1 that he was writing to primarily Jewish Christians.

(a) Why do you think he would use the example of Abraham's faith in action in verses 21-23?

(b) Why do you think James would use Rahab, a Gentile woman, as another example of faith in action instead of just picking another Jewish person in the Old Testament? (See Joshua 2 for Rahab's story)

7. Now that you have had a chance to study the relationship between faith and works in a little more depth in Step 2, explain in your own words the point James is making in verse 26.

Memory Verse: ²⁶“For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.” (James 2:26)

Write the memory verse down below:

Step 3: Walk in the Word

“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ...” Philipplians 1:27 (ESV)

Re-read James 2:14-26 and answer the questions below

1. (a) Are there any good works you believe you must do to gain God’s favor? (Examples could be tithing, going to church regularly, reading your bible, or anything else that you feel would make you unacceptable to God if you did *not* do them).

(b) Has this week’s study changed your view of those works? If so, how?

2. (a) List some good works you have done recently that you would not have done before you were saved.

(b) How do those works show your love for others?

(Question 2 cont.)

(c) How do those works encourage you that you have a “living faith?”

3. Has the Lord been prompting you to do new works that would give him glory? If so, what is causing you to be hesitant? What steps can you be taking to be obedient to that prompting?

Write the memory verse below:

Memory Verse: ²⁶“For as the _____ apart from the _____
is _____, so also _____ apart from _____ is dead.”
(James 2:26)

What lesson or truth meant the most to you this week?

Journal a prayer below, thanking God for that truth.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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