

James 2: 14-26



The Text – James 2:14-26

1. Read James 2:14-26. Are there any verses you find confusing or uncomfortable? Why?
2. What point do you think James is trying to make about faith in verses 14-17? What words would you use to describe someone who lives this way?
3. What kinds of things is James thinking of when he speaks of works and deeds?
4. What do you think James means when he says “faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”
5. Does James think you can separate faith and deeds? Can they exist independently of each other?
6. What is the relationship between faith and works in the example of Abraham and Rahab?
7. What do you think James means when he says, “As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead?”
8. In your own words, describe how James would define faith according to this passage.

The Scriptures – James 1:12-18 as a portion of the Scriptures

9. Read Mark 12:30-31. How do James’ words reflect these words of Jesus?
10. Read Romans 4:1-12. In Romans, Paul uses Abraham as an example to show we are saved by faith and **not** by works. How might James’ and Paul’s words both be true?

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to James 2:14-26 as a portion of the Scriptures

11. In what ways do we sometimes hold parts of ourselves back from God instead of giving ourselves as whole, living sacrifices?
12. How has your understanding of faith been challenged by this passage?
13. What would you say to someone who read this passage and felt they had to earn God’s favour?