

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

James 2:14-26

For Starting

- What is one item in your house that you should really throw away, but you probably won't throw away?
- Share ONE thing about Goldstone Church that is an encouragement to you.
- How easy or hard is it for people in any church to convince others that they are Christians, when they are not?
- Why do you think faith is such a difficult subject to explain in churches today?

For Reviewing

- What is James saying is an essential part of faith (v.14)? Outline the example that James uses (v.15-17)?
- What response does James suggest will follow (v.18)?
- Why is just intellectual agreement to truth not enough (v.19)?
- How does James describe people who do not see faith in this way (v.20)? Is this too strong a word?
- What TWO Bible characters does James use to illustrate saving faith (v.21-26)? What did they have in common? How was faith made complete in the first example (v.21-24)? How did the belief of the second person affect her (v.25)?
- Does James ever say that works without faith can save?

For Discussion

- What are some ways we don't put actions behind our words? Is this easier socially, or at church?
- "*Faith is confidence that God's Word is true, and conviction that acting on that Word will bring His blessing*". Do you agree/disagree?
- Read Philippians 2:5-8. How is this faith in action?
- How do your actions demonstrate the reality of your faith?
- In what ways can you bring your external actions more in line with your internal beliefs?
- You could end by reading together James 2:26

James 2:14-26 (NIVUK)

Faith and deeds

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.' Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder.

²⁰ You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹ Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ 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. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

²⁵ 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? ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.