



JAMES 2:14-26

Real faith – Faith without works doesn't work

Notes for leader

Main point (for you to have in mind – don't read to group):

True saving faith shows itself in our actions, especially in meeting people's practical needs

This term we'll be using the COMA structure to help develop good bible reading skills.

C = context, O = observations, M = meaning / interpretation, A = application.

- How did you find the sermon on the weekend?
- When does reality fail to live up to the claim? (e.g. travel brochure)

Pray for your time together.

Read James 2:14-26

1. Have a go at a 1 sentence summary of each of the 3 passages we've studied. What Qs might the emphasis on "doing the word" raise for James' readers? (C)

FAITH THAT'S ALIVE AND KICKING

2. If we underlined words James repeats, what would it tell us about the topics this passage is addressing? (O)

3. Divide your group into 2 groups for a debate. (M)

One group needs to use the passage to argue "we are saved by our works". The other group needs to use the passage to argue "we are saved by faith".

Afterwards:

- a. Who had stronger arguments? What is the passage really saying? (M)
- b. How do these 3 things fit together? Faith / Works / Salvation (M)
- c. How would you summarise the main point James is making? (M)

4. What wrong understandings of “faith” are out there? How do these verses correct them? (M + A)

- a. What advice would you give someone who was concerned, after reading this passage, that they might have dead faith? (A)
- b. Let’s go around our group (or in pairs) and share: how do you feel about the state of your faith? If a doctor gave a diagnosis, what would they say? (A)

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no pulse hospital out of shape healthy fit Olympic athlete

(possibly pause and pray for each other before moving on)

DEEDS THAT DISPLAY FAITH

5. How did Abraham’s actions show that his faith was real? (O + M)

- a. What do you find encouraging about Abraham’s example? (A)
- b. Abraham was a wealthy and well-respected Jew. Rahab was a Gentile prostitute. Why do you think James chose these 2 examples? (M + A)

6. What sort of actions does this passage particularly emphasise? (verse 16) (O)

- a. What actions can we take to meet people’s practical needs... (A)
 - In our growth group?
 - In our church?
 - In our community?
 - Globally?

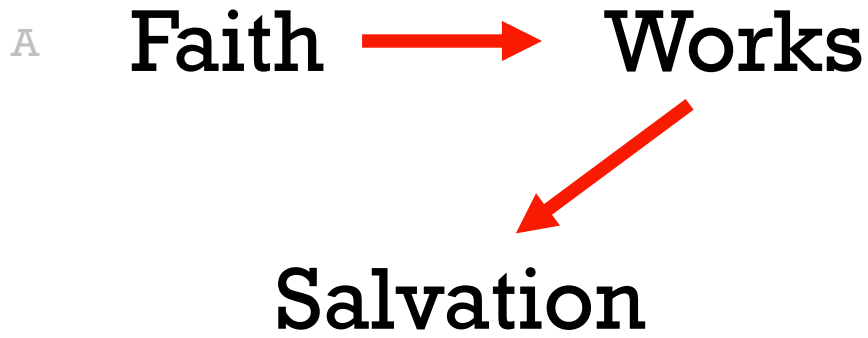
“Our church is rich in this kind of good deeds – lots of it is informal and flies under the radar. Praise God! We want to pray that happens more and more.

Getting care - *It’s worth knowing that there is a Care team operating in church. You can submit care requests by going to evchurch.info/cards and clicking on “get care”.*

Getting help when giving care - *You might already be providing practical care to someone. It can be helpful to reach out to the Care team for advice on how to give the best care. In that case Glyn Kearney is the person to contact - glyn.kearney@evchurch.info.*

Joining the care team - *Glyn is also the person to talk to if you’d like to find out more about being part of that Care team.”*

Pray for one another and our church.



B

Faith + Works

= Salvation

