

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Open your group with a prayer. Use this sheet as a guide; select the points you want to discuss.

GETTING STARTED

1. What comes to mind when you hear the words “good works?”
2. How do various religions explain the relationship between faith and works?

DIGGING DEEPER

3. Read James 2:14 and Ephesians 2:8-9. Why do James and Paul *seem to* contradict one another?
4. “We are not saved *by* deeds; we are saved *for* deeds. Paul emphasized the first truth, James the second truth” (Wm. Barclay). What dangers exist when this is misunderstood?
5. Read James 2:17. The sermon explained that “dead” doesn’t mean “non-existent” but “inactive” or “useless.” Relate this to Ephesians 2:10.
6. Read James 2:21-24. About 20 years separates

Abraham’s statement of faith (Gen 15:6) from his demonstration of faith (Gen 22). What was the ‘work’ of Abraham?

7. Read James 2:25 and Joshua 2:9-15. What was the ‘work’ of Rahab?
8. Read Joshua 6:17. How exactly was Rahab saved? How does this inform the meaning of “save” in James 2:14b?

LIVING IT OUT

9. How do our deeds reveal what we *really* believe about God?
10. Abraham and Rahab expressed their faith by their choices. Share some ways your faith or someone else’s faith was expressed in deeds.
11. Discuss the ways Abraham and Rahab are opposites. What implications does this have regarding good works for Christians?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“...*faith without deeds is dead.*”
- James 2:26b

