

5: James

Accompanies the 5/9/21 Sermon

BIG IDEA

No one argues what the word good means. It's something that brings value or matters a great deal. Our faith is meant to be good. Good works cannot save us, but a good faith should be lived out. Is your faith living and vibrant? Does it lead to good works?

GETTING STARTED

Use the following questions to break the ice and begin your group discussion together:


- What was your first job?
- If you could have any job now regardless of training needed or its pay, what would you do?

PREPARE YOUR HEART AND MIND

Open in prayer: Pray that as you reflect on today's scripture that God prepares your heart and mind. Pray for the ability to understand and apply its truth to your life.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpack its meaning.

 Have someone in your group read **James 2:14-28**

 **The CONTEXT of James**

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic. Bring attention to what events are surrounding the text. In this text James is writing to the persecuted church.

- What about this passage stood out to you right away? What do you find challenging or supporting?

- What is your reaction to James' statement that even demons believe in God? (see v. 19)
 - What do you think it means for demons to shudder?
 - How does this reality convict us about the nature of saving faith and works?
- Abraham and Rehab had very different lives but are both held up as examples of faith. Why do you think James chose to highlight their faith?

GETTING PRACTICAL

Discuss the following questions together as a group; be willing to share how challenges and trials have affected your life.

1. James doesn't want us to be hypocrites. He wants us to live out our faith not just to simply believe. How has hypocrisy affected the church?
2. How would the world be different if every Christian demonstrated authentic faith as James described it? Explain.
3. How can our faith be good for:
 - Our families?
 - Our work places?
 - Our neighbors?
 - Our community?
 - Ourselves?