



JOURNEY GROUP STUDY GUIDE – James: A Working Faith

WEEK 4 - Sunday, October 12 – “DO vs. DONE”

CONNECT (table)

1. Briefly describe either: 1) a time when you were the beneficiary of someone living out their faith through the doing of a 'good work' or 2) an instance or a season when your faith was expressing itself in good works wherein you felt used by God.
2. What from the message did you find helpful, challenging or troubling?

LEARN from James 2:14-26 (text)

1. Work together for a few minutes on memorizing the following verse:
In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (James 2:17)
2. Compare James' teaching in James 2:14-17 with what Paul says in Ephesians 2:8-10 and Galatians 2:16. Identify the key points and explain how their views about *works* fits together.
3. Let's look together at what Paul, John, Jesus and James have to say about salvation, and see if we can clarify the relationship of *faith* and *works*. Have various members of the group read aloud the verses of the following questions. Listen for key thoughts in each passage.
 - According to Paul's teaching in Galatians 5:6, what is "*genuine faith*?"
 - According to 1 John 3:10, 17-19, what is clear evidence that we "*belong to the truth*?"
 - Note what Jesus said about faith and deeds in Matthew 7:15-23, 25:31-46.
 - Review James' thoughts on the relationship between *faith* and *works* from James 1:27; 2:14-17. What harmony do you see between the teachings of Paul, John, Jesus and James on the subject of *faith* and *works*?
4. Our faith is not *determined* by what we do, it is *demonstrated* by what we do. Identify some changes in your life since accepting Christ as your Saviour? Please share. What are some changes you would like to see in your life, which you feel you will need the help of God's Spirit to see realized?

SERVE (towel)

1. Identify someone in your group or in your church family who has a practical need. Then, discuss what you can do together to meet that need.
2. Brainstorm ideas for a serving opportunity your entire group will do together during the "Here We Are: Week of Compassion" (October 26-November2).