**JAMES**

**Lesson 3: Faith in Action**

### JAMES 2:14-26 (NLT)

14What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? 15Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, 16and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

17So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

18Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.”

19You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. 20How foolish! Can’t you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

21Don’t you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. 23And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” He was even called the friend of God. 24So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.

25Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. 26Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

**FAITH IN ACTION**

**1. Deeds without God equals no faith**

**2. God without deeds equals no faith**

**3. God plus deeds equals faith**

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

**1. Read Romans 10:14-15. How is this passage a great example of faith plus deeds?**

**2. Read Matthew 7:15-23. How does this passage relate to faith and deeds?**

**3. Read 1 John 3:16-18. How do these verses relate to our conversation on James 2?**

**4. What does “dead faith” look like? Can you describe what “true faith” looks like?**

**5. What are some new insights, habits, or attitudes that might help you live this week’s truth and ideas**

**FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]**

*So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless (James 2:17 NLT).*