

**Study notes, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018**  
**“Faith and Action” - (James 2:14-26)**

**Starter questions**

- Which two people/places/memories/foods/other things do you consider to be inseparable?
- OR
- Have you ever acted on impulse to do something for someone you had never met before? What was their reaction?

**Worship**

Select from...

- Read Hebrews 11:1-3, 11-19, 30-31, 39-40. Thank God for the gift of faith and those who model it to us...
- Watch/listen to “God of the Moon and Stars” e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zerIT8FA7kc> and lead into prayer...
- Listen to/sing “Sovereign” e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMTG13qVY3g> and lead into prayer...

**Word – James 2:14-26**

**Re-cap...**

Faith is not...

- Just about the head

Faith is...

- (Abraham) - Trusting in God’s promises (despite...)
- (Rahab) - Believing that God is Lord over all

Action is...

- Practical caring, love as a verb
- (Abraham) – Obedience to God’s commands
- (Rahab) – Putting the needs of others first, being prepared to take risks for God

Summary...

- Faithful action is the fruit of active faith – faith and action are inseparable

So What?...

- We are called to be people of both faith and action – to “believe it”, “do it”!...
- As a reflection of our relationship with God
- To help make a difference in this life
- To help make a difference for eternity

**Possible discussion questions (choose a few to focus on perhaps)**

- How would you reply if someone asked you if you they were going to heaven, and how you knew?
- Do you agree that a faith that is not demonstrated by faithful actions is a “cheap faith” which devalues Christ’s grace to “cheap grace”?
- Is there a danger that, as Christians, we can get so caught up in “good works” / social action projects etc that we neglect the source and root of our faith?
- What does obedience to God look like for us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?
- Is it really a good thing to take risks for God, or is that just “religious foolishness”?
- Do you agree that “people are declared right with God by faith alone, but not by a faith that is alone. Genuine faith will produce good deeds, but only faith in Christ saves”?
- If you had to do a quick on the spot “Faith and Action” MOT, how would you define what you believe, in just one or two sentences? And what do you do about it, how does this impact your life?
- Could you imagine throwing a Tony Campolo style birthday party for a prostitute at 3.30am? What could you as an individual/you as a housegroup/we as a church do to make someone/a group of people feel loved and valued and to make a difference in their lives?

**Prayer and witness (focus on a few)**

- Pray for each other around the elements of your discussion/your answers given to the above..
- Pray specifically for any action you think God may be asking you to take at the moment...
- Pray for any particular people/groups of people you know who are marginalised...
- “Thy Kingdom Come” prayer initiative...Pray for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus in word/deed with a particular person who is on your heart...
- Pray that we, as a church, may be faithful in reaching out to our community in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit...