

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. What makes you right with God, your faith or your actions? It's a huge question that drives your decision-making. It determines your reasoning.

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

Read James 2:14-20

1. What does the author mean by "Faith"?
2. James compares faith and works to the body and the spirit. Does it make any difference in the way we read this passage if we think of faith as the "body" in this scripture, or as the "spirit"? What difference? Why?
3. What seems to be James' "overall message"? Is that message still relevant to Christians today? Why?

Read Matthew 7:21-23

4. What did Jesus say about believing and doing?
5. Compare the above scripture with Mark 4:20

James said there must be action to our faith.

6. How is this different from what Paul said in Ephesians 2:8-9?
7. Compare with what Paul said in Galatians 5:19-21.

8. Read the parable of the two sons in Matthew 21:28-32. What does this say about delayed obedience?

9. What has God told you to do that you haven't done?

Read James 2:21-26

10. Read the stories of Abraham and Rahab. Find them in the Old Testament! Talk about their faith.

11. At what point were they considered "righteous" before God?

Application

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message.
Discuss how they apply to your life.

- Good intentions are not good enough.
- Sometimes we convince ourselves that our good intentions are good enough.
- No where in scripture do you find GOOD INTENTIONS will get you to heaven.
- Jesus said that the word of God is like a seed. It gets planted in our hearts and then has the potential to bear fruit. But not every seed grows into a plant and bears fruit. The kind of soil it lands on makes all the difference.
- There are some Christians who are more faithful than other Christians.
- There are some Christians who are more reliable than others.
- There are some Christians who are more trustworthy than others.