



James: A Faith That Works

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Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?"
2. "Faith in something or someone almost always leads to action" Marcus defined faith as "persuasion, trust, confidence, assurance, belief." Aside from Christ, what do you have faith in? Think about what you spend your time and money on- how are you putting your faith in those things?
3. The Big Idea is "Spiritual Growth requires 'Faith in Action.'"
4. Read **James 2:14-26**.
5. According to Marcus, the first benefit of Faith in Action is that "it helps you monitor your spiritual pulse." Marcus said, "If our faith doesn't motivate us to get off the couch to help our neighbor, evangelize and witness for Jesus at every opportunity, give of ourselves and our resources and sacrifice our time and energy, we have to ask how much we REALLY believe in this big Jesus we claim regularly." Check your spiritual pulse against James' words and Marcus' words... strong? Barely detectable? Somewhere in between?
6. The second benefit is that "it allows God to mold us in the process of doing." Read **Isaiah 64:8**. How have you seen God increase your capacity, desire or ability as you have obediently done His work and allowed Him to change you?
7. The third benefit is that "it provides light and hope in a dark and hopeless world." Read Jesus' words in **Matthew 5:14-16**. Marcus quoted Shane Lopez, author of Hope Matters, "hope has the power to make bad times temporary." Where is your hope? Have you seen the truth of that statement? Who in your life needs to see your light shine through?
8. Finally, the fourth benefit to Faith in Action is "it helps prepare the way for others to know Jesus." Read **1 Corinthians 3:6**. When have you planted seeds of faith or watered them? Have there been moments that you failed to act (plant or water)- what is at stake?

Next Steps: To whom or to what is God calling you to action?

Prayer Thought: Pray and ask Him for eyes to see, courage to speak and act, wisdom to know when and what to say.