

Bible Study Handout: James 2:14-26 (NKJV)

Opening Prayer: Lord, thank You for bringing us together to study Your Word. Open our hearts and minds as we learn from James about the relationship between faith and works. Help us to understand how we can live out our faith in practical ways. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture Passage: "What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

Discussion Questions:

1. Faith Without Works

- What does James say about faith that does not have works? (Hint: See verse 17)
- Fill in the blank: "Faith by itself, if it does not have _____, is dead."

2. Practical Example

- James uses an example of helping a brother or sister in need. Why is it important to meet practical needs?
- Fill in the blank: "If a brother or sister is naked and _____ of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the _____, what does it profit?"

3. Faith and Action Working Together

- How does James describe the relationship between Abraham's faith and his actions?
- Fill in the blank: "Do you see that faith was working _____ with his works, and by works faith was made _____?"

4. **Rahab's Example**

- How did Rahab demonstrate her faith through her actions?
- Fill in the blank: "Was not Rahab the harlot also justified by _____ when she received the _____ and sent them out another way?"

5. **Faith and the Body**

- What analogy does James use to describe faith without works?
- Fill in the blank: "For as the _____ without the _____ is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

Key Takeaways:

1. Faith and works are inseparable—genuine faith produces action.
2. Practical acts of love and service reflect the reality of our faith.
3. Biblical examples, such as Abraham and Rahab, show how faith is demonstrated through action.
4. We are called to a living, active faith that impacts the lives of others.

Reflection and Application:

- Reflect on areas in your life where your faith can be demonstrated through works.
- Identify one specific way you can help someone in need this week.
- Pray for God to show you opportunities to live out your faith in action.

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for teaching us through Your Word. Help us to live out our faith in tangible ways, serving others and glorifying You in all we do. May our actions reflect the love and grace we have received through Jesus. In His name, Amen.