



October 13-14, 2020 (Bonfire Journey)

Series: James

Message: James 2: Faith & Works

Teacher: Brianne Farrell

The Main Thing: *What are you doing with your life that matters?*

Scriptures: James 2:1,8,13,17,26 (Main focus); Related Scriptures: Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 22:36-39

Bible Background Notes:

James 2:8 A royal law or imperial edict was higher than the justice of the aristocrats. God would be considered the supreme King, and his law would be described this way. Christians can apply this to Jesus' teachings and Messiahship. James used Leviticus 19:18 to epitomize the law. Jesus' "law" takes seriously both sin and grace. God doesn't excuse us from sin, but he does forgive us. Forgiving gives weight to the seriousness of the offense while also nullifying the guilt through grace.

Like Jesus in Matthew 22:37-40, James argues that obedience to the love commandment in the Old Testament meets the spirit of the entire OT law. He uses "love" (agapeseis) in the future tense, indicating his hope for future action on this command. Discriminating against the poor or showing favoritism slanders the name of God.

James 2:26 Most Jews accepted the necessary cooperation of body and spirit/soul (unlike the Greek culture that separated the two). All who believed in this agreed that when the soul departed, the person died. Faith describes a trust in God marked by fidelity of behavior. The body by itself is nothing, and a soul cannot be a soul apart from a body. Faith that doesn't compel the believer to good deeds is no faith at all. When we have God's wisdom, our hearts are changed, and so are our desires and actions. Deeds are acts that flow from a life lived with God. They are faith expressing itself through love (see also Galatians 5:6). We are called to live lives of integrity and to meet the needs of the community.

Sources: *The IVP Bible Background Commentary OT/NT; The NIV Application Commentary: James (David P. Nystrom)*

SMALL GROUP TIME

Icebreakers:

What's your favorite candy to put inside a s'more?

Do you want to live a life that matters? Why?

Questions:

When we are forgiven by God, we are changed.

Have you forgiven others in your life the way God has forgiven you? Why/why not?

What does it mean to be a fully devoted follower of Christ?

If "All people matter to God," how should that change the way we treat the people in our lives?

Why is it bad to show favoritism?

Why should mercy triumph over judgement? (James 2:13)

What are some ways that you've been judging other people?

Who is your neighbor?

How can you love someone like you love yourself?

What does that mean in everyday life?

What holds you back from loving others?

From loving the "outsider" kids?

From loving others online?

From loving your siblings?

Why does loving our neighbor involve action, not just words?

Are you keeping your faith to yourself or showing it through actions?

What are some ways that you'd like to serve at Chesapeake?

(Leaders can share how they serve and some opportunities that are available.)

What are some ways you can serve your family this week?

Your friends?