

Life Group Discussion Guide

4.11.21

ONE Message Series

Living the Story with Integrity

James 2:14-26

You believe there is ONE God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder.”

James 2:19

OPEN

In what way has someone recently shown you that they love you? Can you also think of a time recently when someone showed you that they believe in you...that they trust you?

NEXT

Read James 2:14-26 together. Compare Romans 3:28 with James 2:24. Are Paul and James in conflict with one another? What do you make of this comparison?

David P. Nystrom has written, “Part of the difficulty in rectifying the Paul/James question over deeds is that Paul in Romans 3:28 is speaking of salvation as past event; nothing human beings can do can earn God's forgiveness. But James, when speaking of deeds, has in mind present activity.”

Nystrom (and others) have suggested that salvation is a “threefold experience”:

It is an accomplished fact: we have been saved (see Eph. 2:8).

It is a present experience: we are being saved (see Philippians 2:12).

It is a future hope. We will be saved. (see Romans 13:11; Philippians 3:20).

How do you personally understand what it means to be “saved by faith?”

It might be said that salvation is both an event and a process. What do you make of that?

Read James 2:19 together. What is the relationship between belief and faith? Are those synonymous? Notice that James concludes the demons make the core Hebrew statement of faith known as the Shema and found in Deuteronomy 6 and it produces a response – “they shudder.” How is this possible? Do the demons have faith?

Some have said that we ought to consider not only what we have been saved *from* but also what we have been saved *for*. What do you think they mean by that? How does that relate to what we read here in James?

How do the examples of Abraham and Rahab add to this conversation?

Read James 1:17 together. What do you sense your faith is compelling you to do next?

CLOSING

What do you need this group to be praying over you this next week?