

One BRMC Small Group Study

Living BRMC's Legacy of Faith in Action

Leader's Guide

Please note that this study guide accompanies the pulpit sermon on 24 May 2020.

Scripture Passage:
James 2:14-26

Context:

BRMC celebrates our 64th anniversary this week, and in his sermon Pastor-in-Charge the Rev Chiu Ming Li looks at the legacy those who came before us in BRMC have left behind – that of godly works. He relates it to the passage in James 2:14-26 where James explains that “faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead” (James 2:17), and leads us to ponder the question – what is our faith about if it does not lead us to doing good works?

Lesson Objectives:

In this lesson, we will attempt to understand the following:

- Our faith is shown by how we live and how we care for those in need.
- Our faith compels us to live in obedience to the Lord and to be more like Christ.
- Caring for others in sacrificial and radical ways is part of imitating Christ and His heart for the needy.

Introductory

1. What does James mean by “faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead” (v17)?

2. Read Galatians 2:15-21 and compare it with James 2:14-26. How do we reconcile what both Paul and James have written about righteousness, faith and works?

Reflection

3. Abraham was willing to sacrifice his own son in obedience to God. What is something you would be willing to sacrifice for God? What is something that you would find great difficulty to sacrifice for God's sake?

4. What are some obstacles (physical or mental) that get in the way of us showing sacrificial (even radical) love and compassion to those in need?

Application

5. Who can you show sacrificial love and compassion to in your daily life, starting from today?

Prayer

6. Write out a prayer for yourself based on what you have heard and learned from this session.

(a) What is in your heart for yourself?

- Perhaps you have the desire to help others but are struggling with starting:

"Gracious Father, I know that faith without action is dead, but it is so hard to show sacrificial love and compassion to others. Help stir up in my heart the desire to love You through loving others in practical ways. Please give me the strength and resolve to overcome my inner inhibitions to show compassion to others. In Jesus' name, Amen."

(b) What is in your heart for others?

- Perhaps you want to help others but you don't know how:

“Loving Father, help me to be more like You in Your love and compassion that You showed towards the needy. Please give me creativity and ideas as to how to show them Your love for them. Please grant me opportunities to help others, and when the opportunity arises, help me not to turn a blind eye to it. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

- It is always useful to collate these prayers and to refer to them for thanksgiving and sharing next week.