

James 2 Church Bible Study

1. Favoritism within the church (1 – 4).
 - a. We are not to show favoritism for those who have great wealth.
 - b. We are to show love to everyone because we are all God's creation (Matthew 25:44-45).
 - c. We are not to judge based on appearance (John 7:24).
 - d. When we show partiality, our mind is filled with evil thoughts. Remember the Philip. 4:8 "thought filter".
 - e. Do I treat people differently at church because of their financial status or appearance? Why or why not?

2. God has chosen the poor of this life (5 – 9).
 - a. God chose to have the Gospel preached to the poor in this life (Luke 4:18-19).
 - b. We are never to despise the poor. Rather, Jesus encouraged us to give to them (Mark 14:7).
 - c. Many that are poor are rich in faith, and many that are rich are poor in faith (Matthew 19:23).
 - d. We must never forget the second greatest commandment: to love our neighbor as we love ourself.
 - e. Preferring the rich over the poor is described in the Bible as sin.
 - f. How do I treat the poor? How might God be speaking to my heart in this area?

3. Faithfulness in all things (10 – 13).
 - a. We need to be faithful to God in **all** aspects of our life.
 - b. We must demonstrate a high degree of personal integrity in our life -> Walk = Talk.
 - c. If we want to receive mercy, we need to demonstrate mercy to others (Matthew 5:7).
 - d. What area of my life do I need to recommit to God? What can I do to draw closer to God in this area?

4. True faith results in good works (14 – 16).
 - a. A saving faith is accompanied by good works (Matthew 7:20).
 - b. God created us to do good works and He wants us to continue to do them (Ephesians 2:10).
 - c. When we see people in need, God expects us to help them (James 1:22).
 - d. What type of fruit is my faith bearing? When I see others in need, am I glad to help them?

5. Faith without works is dead (17 – 26).
 - a. If we want to have a living faith, good works will be a normal part of our life.
 - b. Loving acts of service can do more to demonstrate our faith than any words we say.
 - c. **Good works will never save you**, but they do validate your faith (Ephesians 2:8-9).
 - d. It is very easy to say that you believe in God. It is another thing to live the life of a servant.
 - e. Good works *justify* our faith – defends and upholds our faith to be true. Consider Romans 4:1-5.
 - f. Good works perfectly compliment our faith and make it complete.
 - g. Abraham and Rahab both demonstrated a tremendous amount of faith by their actions, not just words.
 - h. What can I do to make my faith more alive?

Key Words

- 2:1 Respect of persons – Favoritism or partiality.
- 2:2 Assembly – A gathering together or meeting. James was writing to Jews, so he did not use the word church. However, as a practical application, we should apply this Biblical teaching when we come together in church.
- 2:2 Vile raiment – Filthy, dirty, shabby clothes vs. goodly apparel – Fine clothes.
- 2:3 Have respect – Pay attention to.
- 2:3 Gay clothing – Fine clothing.
- 2:9 Convinced of the law – Convicted by the law.
- 2:14 Can faith – Can that faith or can that type of faith.
- 2:15 Naked – Badly clothed.
- 2:15 Destitute – In need.
- 2:19 Devils – Demons.
- 2:20 O vain – You foolish.
- 2:22 Wrought – Worked together. Perfect – complete.
- 2:23 Imputed – Credited to.

Key People

Abraham – Often referred to as the Friend of God, his life story is told in Genesis 11 – 25. Abraham and his wife Sarah were the founders of the Jewish nation. Abraham demonstrated a tremendous amount of faith throughout his life. Some of his most notable acts of faith were listening to God to leave his home land (Ur of the Chaldeans) to go to the land of Canaan and being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac. God has blessed the world through Abraham and his descendants. In fact, God promised Abraham that Jesus Christ would be born of his descendants.

Rahab – Described in scripture as a harlot, we learn about Rahab in Joshua 2 and 6. Rahab risked her own life by hiding two Israelites when they came to spy on Jericho (where Rahab lived in a house built into the wall). Because of her great faith, Rahab and her family were saved from death when the walls of Jericho fell down. Although scripture does not tell the story explicitly, it is believed that Rahab went on to marry Salmon (an Israelite) after Jericho was defeated. Rahab later became the mother of Boaz and was therefore a part of Jesus Christ's lineage (Matthew 1:5). Finally, Rahab is only one of two women mentioned during the review of the Heroes of Faith in Hebrews 11.

Suggested Memory Verses

James Chapter 2:

1, 10, 13, 17-18, 26

James 2 Church Bible Study Reference Verses

Matthew 25:44-45

Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

John 7:24

Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Luke 4:18-19

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Mark 14:7

For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.

Matthew 19:23

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:7

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Matthew 7:20

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

James 1:22

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast

Romans 4:1-5

What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.