



James 2:1-13

1. Stop showing _____ . Faith in Jesus and _____ cannot _____ . (v 1-4)

2. Don't _____ others to _____ man's _____ . (v 5-7)

3. Don't _____ this for _____...showing _____ is _____.
(v 8-11)

4. As _____ has shown _____, so we must _____ . (v 12-13)



DAY 1

Pray: Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by Grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is a gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Open your time today in prayer by praising God for the gift of salvation that is yours through faith in Christ. Ask Him to reveal to you what living, saving faith should look like in your life.

Memorize: Read James 2:17 and write it out on the lines below:

Study: This week we will be studying James 2:14-26. Please read through this passage making specific note of what is being communicated about faith in the verses below:

- 1. Verse 14: _____

- Verse 17: _____

- Verse 18: _____

- Verse 20: _____

- Verse 22: _____

- Verse 24: _____

- Verse 26: _____

2. Read verses 18-20 again. In your own words write the big idea that is being expressed:

3. In what ways does this (the big idea of vs 18-20) challenge or change your current definition of faith? _____

4. From verses 21-24, what do you learn about Abraham's faith? _____

5. Read Titus 3:4-8. According to verse 5, what did not save us? And, why/how did God save us?

6. In Titus 3:7 what is the result of God's mercy on us? _____

7. From verse 8 what should result from belief in God? _____

As we study James 2:14-26 this week it's important that we understand first of all, that we are saved through faith in Christ. On our own we all sin, and fall short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). And as a result of our sinful nature, we deserve punishment. But, God offers salvation to us as a gift, based upon Christ's death. Because Christ took our punishment on the cross, eternal life is offered to all who have faith in Him. (Romans 6:23, Romans 10:9-10)

8. Consider the verses from Romans above, as well as the passages from Titus and Ephesians that we have looked at today. Please write briefly your salvation story. _____

James challenges us to recognize that living, saving faith will result in visible action. The good works we do will not save us, but when we have been saved, we will do good works. This week

9. Prayerfully examine your heart and life; ask God to show you areas that are not characterized by the good works that should result from saving faith.



Pray: Close your time of study today by asking God to open your heart to a fuller understanding of faith. If you were not able to record your salvation story above, perhaps today is the day to begin your story. And if God is challenging you to show your faith in specific areas of good works, commit yourself to obedience to Him.

DAY 2

Pray: In Ezekiel 36:26 God says, “I will give you a new heart and a new spirit I will put within you.” Begin your time of study by praising God for the work He has done in your heart. Recognize that He alone has the power to change your heart. Ask Him to show you what parts of your heart He would like to continue to transform.

Memorize: Read or recite James 2: 14-17. Fill in the blanks below for verse 17:

So also _____ by itself, if it does not _____, is dead.

Study: For days 2 & 3 we will study Luke 6:43-49 as we seek greater understanding of genuine, saving faith. Please begin by reading Luke 6:43-45.

1. In your own words describe and contrast the 2 types of trees that Jesus discusses in verses 43 and 44: _____

In verse 45 it may be helpful to know that the word *good* could also be translated *fit, capable, useful, upright*. The word *evil* could also be translated *sick, degenerate, worthless*.

2. Read verse 45 inserting the different adjectives for the words *good* and *evil*. How would you describe these 2 types of people? _____

3. What does it mean to you that your heart stores your treasure? _____

4. According to Jesus’ words at the end of verse 45, where do our words come from? _____

5. In light of the words that you speak, describe your heart's treasures. _____

6. According to Ezekiel 36:26-27, what does God desire to give His people? _____

7. In verse 27 what will result from this? _____

8. As you consider both of our scripture passages for today, what do you believe God has done and is doing in your heart? _____

9. What are some practical steps you can take to fill your heart with treasure that will result in words and actions that honor God? _____

Pray: If God has shown you any heart treasures that are not useful, upright, and good, confess them now. Ask God to continue His work in transforming your heart, so that you may treasure the things that are good and useful.

DAY 3

Pray: In Luke 6:47 & 48 Jesus says, "Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them... is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on a rock." Pray these words back to Jesus today. Ask Him to allow you to hear His words and then do them. Ask Him to strengthen you to obedience so that your life will be founded on the Rock.

Memorize: Continue to memorize James 2:17 by writing in the missing phrases:

_____, if it does not have works,
_____.



Study: Today we will continue in our study of Jesus’ teaching from Luke 6. Following the teaching about the tree and its fruit, He gives a parable that helps us understand how to grow good fruit from a heart filled with good treasure. This is the end of His sermon, and in these verses Jesus presents us with 2 clear options for building our lives.

Please read the parable of the House Built on the Rock in Luke 6:46-49.

1. Describe what is happening in Verse 46. _____

2. What are some situations, religions, etc. in which we might hear people using the name of Jesus – calling Him a good teacher - but not acting in obedience to Him? _____

3. What are the 3 steps that Jesus describes in verse 47 that should happen if we want to build our lives on a solid foundation? _____

4. A couple of weeks ago in James 1:22-24, what did we learn about ourselves if we only hear the word, and are not living in obedience to the word? _____

5. Now back in Luke 6:48, what example does Jesus give of the person who both hears and obeys the Word? _____

6. In practical terms, what would it look like to “dig deep” to lay the foundation of your life? In what situations do you need to dig deep to pursue obedience to God’s Word? _____

7. What is the foundation that we should build our lives upon? (For further explanation, see 1 Cor.3:11) _____
8. What does it mean to you that your spiritual life is built upon the foundation of Christ? _____

9. From verse 49, describe what will happen to the person whose spiritual life is not built on the foundation of Christ and His word. _____

10. Building a quality foundation is time consuming, and often difficult. What would God have you change so that you can do the work of digging deep as you lay the foundation of your life?

Pray: In closing today, confess any ways in which you have been a careless builder. Ask God to continue to show you how to lay your life's foundation on His word.

DAY 4

Pray: In Isaiah 66:3b the Lord says, "But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word." As you begin your time of study today pray that God will grow in you a humble spirit and a desire to recognize your need for forgiveness.

Memorize: Read or recite James 2:14-17. Write out verse 17 on the lines below:

So also, _____, if it _____,
is _____.

Study: For the final 2 days of this week's homework we will study a story from the life of Christ in which a woman's sins are forgiven. Please read Luke 7:36-50.

1. Briefly describe the scene from verses 36-40. _____

2. To better understand the context of this story, read Luke 7:34. What was being said about Jesus? _____

3. Also read Luke 19:10. Why did Jesus come to this earth? _____

4. Why do you think Jesus chose to have a meal with Simon the Pharisee? _____

5. From vs. 37-38 what can you learn about the woman? How would you describe her actions?

6. How would you describe Simon's response to this woman in verse 39? _____

7. What seems to bother Simon most about the interaction between this woman and Jesus?

8. In what ways do you identify with Simon's response to the sinful woman? _____

In verse 40 Jesus reveals that He is in fact a prophet by answering Simon's thoughts. Read the parable Jesus tells in verses 41-43.

9. In verse 42 Jesus uses the word *charizomai* which could be translated "graciously forgiven". This is a business term for forgiving a debt, but in what ways could *charizomai* also be a spiritual term? _____

10. What observations can be made about the 2 debtors? _____

11. Why is it important to understand the amount of *charizomai* we have received in order to love and worship Christ? _____

12. What will result when we minimize our own sin and judge the sinfulness of others harshly?

13. How could you change your perspective so that you can accurately see how much *charizomai* Christ has lavished upon you? _____

Pray: 1 John 4:19 says, “We love because he first loved us.” Today we learned that great love comes from great forgiveness. As you close in prayer today, praise God for His great love for you that resulted in gracious forgiveness. Confess any ways in which you tend to minimize your own sinfulness. Ask Him to help you understand your need for His forgiveness, and to cause your love for Him and for others to grow.

DAY 5

Pray: Read James 2:14-17. As you open in prayer today, ask God to grow in you a Living Faith that will be evident in your words, thoughts, and actions.

Memorize: Say James 2:14-17 out loud. Try not to rush through the words, but speak thoughtfully, as though you are trying to express this idea to someone who is listening.

Study: Today we will finish our study of the Sinful Woman Forgiven. Once again read through the entire narrative from Luke 7:36-50.

1. In verses 44-46 how does Jesus view His interactions with this woman? _____

2. Jesus made 3 comparisons between Simon and the woman. Record them below:

Simon's Actions	The Sinful Woman's Actions

3. What does it say to you that her actions, though culturally inappropriate, were commended by Christ? _____

4. Please look again at verses 47-48. What was the woman's motivation for her actions?

5. How does Jesus respond to the woman? _____

6. The word used for *forgiven* is in the perfect tense – a past action with continuing result. What was the continuing result of this woman's forgiven state? _____

7. In verse 50 Jesus very clearly states what saved this woman. How was she saved?

8. What can you learn about saving faith from this narrative? _____

9. Write several adjectives to describe Simon: _____

10. What are some qualities that you see revealed about this woman? _____

11. As you evaluate your own heart, which of the characters from this story do you most identify with? And how? _____

12. James 2:26 tells us that "faith apart from works is dead." In light of this story, what do you think James means? _____

13. In what ways are you demonstrating your faith in Christ through the evidence of love? _____

Pray: On the lines below write a prayer of reflection today. Think of the many ways that Christ has loved you and forgiven you. Praise Him for this. Consider how you may better demonstrate God's work in your life. Write a statement of prayerful commitment about how God would have you change.
