



Faith that Works



BIG IDEA

If your faith doesn't move you to action, what you have isn't faith. James, the half-brother of Jesus who once doubted Him but was forever changed after encountering the risen Christ, wrote one of the most practical, applicable books in the Bible. Over the next six weeks, we'll journey through James to discover what a faith that actually works looks like.



ICE BREAKER

1. What's something you loved building or creating as a kid (Legos, forts, art projects, etc.)? What made it satisfying to finish?
2. Have you ever made something that looked impressive but didn't actually "do" anything? What was that like?
3. Has there ever been a moment that completely changed what you believed, something you couldn't "unsee" afterward?



MAIN POINTS

Faith that doesn't move you to action isn't really faith. Pastor Cal opened this new series with the line that sums up the whole book of James: "If your faith doesn't move you to action, what you have isn't faith." Just like a science project or a body isn't complete until it actually does something, James teaches that real faith always shows up in what we do, not just what we say we believe.

Meet James, the brother who doubted, then couldn't unsee the resurrection. James was Jesus' half-brother, and for most of his life he didn't believe Jesus was who He claimed to be. Scripture is clear that even Jesus' own brothers didn't believe in Him (Mark 3:21). What changed everything was the resurrection: James personally saw the risen Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:7), and from that point on he became a leader of the church in Jerusalem known as "James the Just" and nicknamed "Old Camel Knees" for how much time he spent in prayer. He was eventually martyred by the Sanhedrin, and tradition says his final words echoed Jesus' own: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

James wrote one of the most practical books in the Bible. Much like Proverbs, James is a "how to live your best life" book, full of wisdom about what following Jesus should actually look like in everyday life. Over the next six weeks, we'll dig into questions like: What should your faith produce? What should Christians be known for and not known for? Where is God when you're hurting?

The resurrection is what changes everything. What ultimately convinced James wasn't an argument it was an encounter with the risen Jesus. That's still true today: the resurrection is the one thing that makes Christianity different from every other religion, and it's the thing that turns belief into action.



DISCUSS

1. Why do you think genuine faith always shows up in action, and not just belief?
2. What do you make of the fact that even Jesus' own family doubted Him before the resurrection?
3. Has there been a moment when God changed your unbelief into belief? What happened?

	4. What is one area of your life where your faith and your actions don't currently match up? 5. As we start this study of James, what's one question about faith and action you're
 NEXT STEP	Jesus First: Read James 1:1 and 1 Corinthians 15:6-8 this week, and thank God for the resurrection the one thing that changes everything. People Always: Think of someone who has watched your faith from the outside, the way James once watched Jesus. Ask God to let your actions this week be the evidence, not just your words. Made for More: Commit to this six-week series on James. Read one chapter of James this week to get a preview of what's ahead.
 SCRIPTURE	James 1:1 Matthew 13:53-57 Mark 3:21 John 7:3-5 1 Corinthians 15:6-8
 NEXT WEEK SNEAK PEAK	Join us next weekend as Pastor Rachel continues our Faith That Works series in James with "Faith Works When Life Goes Off the Rails." Invite someone to join you and don't miss the journey ahead!

Questions or Feedback? Email Groups@CentralAZ.com