**Faith Does Week five**

**Faith Works**

**Study Questions:**

1. What do you think James means by faith (c.f. 2:1) and deeds in v14?
2. What’s the answer to the question in verse 16? What good is it to offer good wishes but no practical help?
3. In verse 18, we see two kinds of faith. How are they described?
4. Jesus used the term disciples for his followers. How are they characterised in John 13:34-35 and John 15:3-5, 8?
5. James gives and example in 2:15-16 of lifeless empty faith. How would a genuine faith person have acted?
6. Are the poor he now discusses in vv15-16 the same group as 1:27? Is this important?
7. How does James describe faith without works in vv17, 19 and 20?
8. Why do you think James chooses the oneness of God as the example of basic faith, and not, say, the atoning death of Jesus?
9. What is the problem with the argument for those who would separate faith and works in vv18-19?
10. Who are the two people referenced as examples of faith operating with deed? What do you know about them and their stories?
11. How did each of these characters actions demonstrate faith at work?
12. How did Abraham’s actions in Genesis 22 “fulfill” the statement of Genesis 15:6?
13. How does James ultimately answer the question from v14 in v24? How do you reconcile this with Romans 3:21-28?
14. How do you practically encounter people with physical needs in your community? How could you increase your opportunity to be close to and help people in need?

**James 2 14**What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? **15**Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. **16**If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? **17**In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

**18**But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. **19**You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

**20**You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? **21**Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? **22**You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. **23**And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. **24**You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

**25**In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? **26**As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

SWEDISH Method

