

# D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **July 11, 2021** Family Theme | **Faith Results in Action** Study Text | **James 1:22-27; 2:14-26**

**Objective:** Help your children and grandchildren understand that genuine faith brings a change of heart that results in a lifestyle of seeking to please God and obey His Word. We serve God and others because of what God has done for us.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** This lesson is set in the early years of the New Testament Church (around AD 45-49). The Church was experiencing persecution and conflict, and some believers were not living out their faith. James reminded them that genuine faith results in action.

**Bible Basics:** Go over the following question and answer each day this week and work with family members to do so as well. What does the Third Commandment mean? Answer: The Third Commandment (Exodus 20:7) means that God's name must always be used with respect and reverence.

**Read the Word:** James 1:22-27; 2:14-26

## Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how genuine faith results in living out what we believe. Saving faith brings a change of heart that results in seeking to obey God's Word.



### **Key Truth: Genuine Faith Acts on God's Word (James 1:22-27)**

People come to faith as a result of hearing God's Word (Romans 10:17). We must understand, however, that our hearing should result in more than just intellectual knowledge. It should include a change of heart that leads to the adoption of a different lifestyle. James used the illustration of a mirror. His word picture involved people looking at themselves in a mirror but refusing to do anything about the blemishes the mirror revealed. Seeing oneself in the mirror does not change what is wrong. That information is only helpful when we act on it. Acting on truth reveals our faith. Acting on God's Word takes the Christian faith off the pages of Scripture and brings it to life in the world. Saving faith brings a change of heart that produces pure and loving actions in real life.



### **Key Truth: Genuine Faith Produces Good Works (James 2:14-26)**

James began this passage with the general case of someone who claimed Christian faith, yet gave no evidence of Christian deeds. Just as good wishes without action accomplish nothing, neither does "faith" without the action that should flow from it. When Jesus spoke of faith, He did not have in mind some vague mental process whereby people accept that something is true. Jesus' approach to faith targets a transformation of attitudes and actions. According to James, without deeds there is no way to know that faith is present. On the other hand, the right deeds would demonstrate quite clearly what sort of faith we have. We may claim belief in any number of orthodox statements about God. Yet it is our actions that demonstrate (to ourselves and to the world) whether or not we truly know and love God. After all, Jesus Himself said that if we love Him, we will do what He has told us to do. We should understand that the deeds these passages discuss are not deeds that we perform in an attempt to make us acceptable to God. It is impossible for us to do enough good deeds to earn salvation. The relationship and friendship with God through faith paves the way for behavior that matches our relationship.

# Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- Why is it important that the way we live confirms what we say we believe?
- What is the difference between genuine faith and mere intellectual belief in God?
- What role do good works play in our salvation?
- What role do good works play in our life as a Christian?
- **For Elementary:** What does it say about our faith if we do not live it out?
- **For Elementary:** In what way do you need to put your faith into action this week?

## Everyday Extras

Set up an experiment to see if your child will take the bait. Say one thing while doing another. For example, you could talk about losing weight while eating candy, talk about being hungry for dinner but not begin preparations, or promise to go to the store with the child but start on the laundry. When our actions don't match what we say or what we believe, we have a problem!

Help your children put value on consistency — matching our words and our deeds to our beliefs. We all need help on this. Why not provide a special whistle that will let your family members (literally) be a whistleblower when one finds a problem? Let's walk the talk!

## Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned to show respect with his or her words. Respect is when you treat someone in a good and honoring way. We can show respect for others not only in the words we say but also the way we say them. When we show respect for others, we are showing respect to God. **I Can Make Good Choices With My Words.**