



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Get Fit*

Scripture: *James 2:14-26*

Date: August 10-11, 2019

Message: *Faith That Works*

—[LET'S START]—

This week's sermon dealt with the relationship between our faith and our works. What are some the most memorable ways that you have served God and others?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work. Pray for the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.

2. Read James 2:1-13.

What does this passage teach us about God? What does it teach us about people?

In verse 8, what does James call the command about loving our neighbors as ourselves? What additional insight does the title that James uses give to this command?

What do verses 12-13 teach us about the relationship between mercy and judgment? Do you think the modern church is known more for our mercy or our judgment? What would it look like to be characterized as people of mercy?

3. Read James 2:14-26.

Why do you think that James makes such a passionate argument for the necessity of faith being accompanied by works?

Look at verse 17. What does James call faith that is not accompanied by action? What are some characteristics of a dead faith?

James uses Abraham and Rahab as examples of people who demonstrated their faith by their actions. Why do you suppose he used these two people? How do you reconcile Genesis 15:6 with James 2:24?

—[LET'S ACT]—

In his message, Pastor Brian encouraged us to look for an opportunity to serve one of the communities that he mentioned in the sermon. The communities of people that he mentioned were the widows, orphans, refugees, prisoners, the oppressed, poor and sick. Have you seen God give you an opportunity to serve one of these communities this week? Let's end our time by praying that God would help each one of us to have an opportunity to serve someone else this week.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- James was perturbed that there were some who considered themselves to be followers of Jesus who thought that a declaration of faith in Jesus was enough. In other words as they thought that as long as they put their Christ, they could live however they wanted.
- In James 2:14-17, James shows us a sad argument for a useless faith.
- You can't get spiritually fit if you don't use your spiritual muscles. There is a direct correlation between what we say we believe and what we do – between faith and works.
- God describes himself as a father to the fatherless and a defender of widows. One of the primary things that God does in this world is to take up the cause of the powerless. Justice is to care for the vulnerable.
- If your faith hasn't changed you – if it hasn't rearranged your priorities, your faith probably hasn't saved you. Genuine faith means that we begin to adopt God's priorities for our lives. We have pledged our allegiance to Christ and His kingdom. We are seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness. There is no space for being a spiritual couch potato. We have got to get in the game!
- We will never get spiritually fit if we continually make excuses (vs. 18-20).
- There is not a demon alive who is an atheist.
- James uses Abraham and Rahab to make the argument for our faith being evidenced by our works in verses 21-26.
- "Paul denies any efficacy to pre-conversion works, but James is pleading for the absolute necessity of post-conversion works." – Doug Moo

—[NOTES]—
