

Faith and Works

James 2:14-26

K-5 Joint Group Time

Main Point - Faith in Jesus always produces good works.

Memory Verse

James 1:22 (the words '*and so deceive yourselves*' have been omitted from this verse)

Leader: *Do not* (children repeat)

Leader: *Do not merely* (children repeat)

Leader: *Do not merely listen* (children repeat)

Leader: *Do not merely listen to the* (children repeat)

Leader: *Do not merely listen to the word* (children repeat)

Leader: *Do what it says.* (children repeat)

Leader: *James* (children repeat)

Leader: *James one* (children repeat)

Leader: *James one twenty-two* (children repeat)

Singing

Select 2/3 songs about putting faith in Jesus and living for him.

Mystery Message - Hangman Variation

- Divide the children into two teams (boys and girls) and play a game of Hangman Variation with the following sentence:
Faith in Jesus always produces good works.
- To play, simply replace each letter of every word of the sentence with a dash.
- Children then take turns in guessing possible letters.
- Every time a letter is guessed, the leader writes the letter in the appropriate space or spaces.
- The team is then awarded points:
 - 1 point every time the letter appears in the coded message
 - 2 points every time they guess a letter that completes a word
- If a team selects a letter that does not appear in the

sentence, no points are awarded.

- The team with the most points wins.

Conclusion:

- *If a person puts their faith in Jesus, it will mean that things change.*
- *They will begin to do good things to others around them.*
- *Why?*
- *Because faith in Jesus will mean that they grow to be more like Jesus.*
- *And Jesus only ever did good things.*
- *Faith and doing good to others go hand in hand.*
- *You can't say you love Jesus and not love those around you.*

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K-2 Group Time

Main Point - Faith in Jesus always produces good works.

Leader Mimes

Leader mimes the following:

Scene 1

A child says they love the Lord Jesus. Child then sees someone who has been bullied by other children and is crying. Child prays for the child but moves on.

Ask:

- *Faith can either be alive or dead.*
- *Faith that is dead is when someone says they love and follow Jesus, but they live selfish and unloving lives.*
- *Faith that is alive is when someone says they love Jesus and live lives that care for and love other people.*
- *Do you think this person's faith was dead or alive?*
(dead, they are not loving the other person)

Scene 2

A child says they love the Lord Jesus. Child then sees someone who has been bullied by other children and is crying. Child prays for the child then stops and befriends the child.

Ask:

- *Do you think this person's faith was dead or alive?*
Faith without good works is dead faith.
(alive, they loved the other person)

Conclusion:

- *Faith can either be alive or dead.*
- *Faith that is dead is when someone says they love and follow Jesus, but they live selfish and unloving lives.*
- *Faith that is alive is when someone says they love Jesus and live lives that care for and love other people.*

- *Faith without good works is dead faith.*
- *Let's hear about someone who's faith changed the way she lived her life.*

Story Time

Download the script titled, *Rahab* (available on the *Kidswise* web site). Retell the story of Rahab hiding the spies using the script as a guide but replace the conclusion in the script with the following conclusion:

Rahab had heard what the God of the Israelites had done.

She'd heard how he'd dried up the sea and let his people escape Egypt.

How he'd given the Israelites victory after victory against their enemies.

She knew that Israel's God is the one true God.

He alone had the power to save his people.

So Rahab put her faith in him.

And we know that her faith was real because she hid the spies and safely sent them home a different way.

Her faith was shown to be real faith by what she did.

Option 1

Retell the story using the following props:

- Bibles Times figurines (can be home made from cardboard rolls) of Rahab, two spies and a servant, Joshua and Israelites
- a block or duplo city wall
- red piece of rope

Option 2

Retell the story by doing a series of pictures:

Picture 1: Rahab and spies

Picture 2: Rahab, hide spies under roof, add servant

Picture 3: Spies escaping

Picture 4: Joshua's army, red rope hanging from Rahab's window

Picture 5: Walls down, Rahab and her family safe

Discussion

- *Rahab hid the spies from her king. She kept them safe. What had she heard about the God who the spies followed?*
(how powerful he is, how he parted the sea and destroyed all

their enemies)

- *Did Rahab believe what she had heard? How do you know she believed that God would save her?*
(yes, she took the spies into her house, she hid them, she told the servant they'd gone a different way, she let them down safely over the wall, she hung a red rope from her window)
- *Remember the Childrens' Talk? When the man first came on, did he have true faith? How do you know?*
(no, he said he believed in/loved Jesus but he didn't show it by the way he lived, he didn't love others, he didn't share his coat or his food and he didn't help them with their work)
- *The second time through, did the man in the Children's Talk have true faith? How do you know?*
(yes, he said he believed in/loved Jesus and he showed it by the way he lived, he loved others, he shared his coat and his food and he helped them with their work)

Conclude

- *Rahab had heard all about the God of Israel.*
- *She'd heard how he'd parted the sea and let the people walk through.*
- *She knew he was the one true God who could save her.*
- *And so Rahab put her faith in him.*
- *We know she did, because her faith helped her hide the spies.*
- *A person who says they believe in Jesus but lives their own way, is fooling themselves.*
- *That faith is dead faith.*
- *Real faith always leads us to do good things to others.*

Application:

- *Is your faith alive or dead?*
- *Can someone look at the way you treat your mother and father, your brother or sister, your friends and your enemies and know that you love the Lord Jesus?*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – Rahab put her faith in you. – Her faith meant that she saved the spies. – Help us to put our faith in Jesus. – Help us to live each day – loving Jesus – and doing good to others. – Amen

Individual Prayer

- Ask God to help them live out their faith by doing good to others, the way Jesus did.
- Or, if they are not sure, ask God to help them to put their faith in Jesus.

Wall

- Download the file titled, *James Stencils*.
- Find the stencil of a wall titled, *Rahab put her faith in God. We know her faith was real because she hid the spies and lowered them down over the wall. Faith and good deeds go together. Joshua 2*
- Copy one per child on A4 cardboard.
- Provide collage material for the children to decorate the wall.

Rahab

- Download the file titled, *James Stencils*.
- Find the stencil of Rahab and the title, *Rahab put her faith in the God of the Israelites, and so she hid the spies. Joshua 2 If we put our faith in Jesus we will do good things to other people. Faith and good works can't be separated. James 2:26*
- Make one copy per child on A4 paper.
- Provide crayons and collage material for the children to decorate Rahab.

Imaginary Play

- Block play - provide foam blocks for the children to build the walls of Jericho. Provide wooden figurines for Joshua's army and Rahab and her family.
- Duplo - provide duplo for the children to build the walls of Jericho. Provide duplo people and have the children place

Rahab and her family inside the wall.

- Box play - provide cardboard boxes for children to build the walls of Jericho. Provide Bible Times dress up clothes and have them march around, blow their trumpets (see craft activity) and knock the walls of Jericho down.

The Spy Game

Need:

- space for the children to sit in a large circle on the floor
- a red rope or ribbon with a tambourine on it, one per group
- blindfold, one per group
- chair, one per group

Instructions:

- Divide the children into groups of about 10.
- Select a guard to protect the red ribbon (red ribbon represents the walls of Jericho where Rahab lived).
- Place the red ribbon/rope under a chair in the middle of the circle.
- The guard sits on the chair, blindfolded.
- The rest of the children are evenly spaced in a circle around the guard.
- The leader points to a child who then begins to creep slowly towards the red ribbon, trying not to make a sound.
- The aim is for the children to creep up and capture the red rope/ribbon without being detected by the guard (i.e. the guard points at the person).
- If caught, they return to the circle and another person is chosen.
- Any child who captures the red ribbon/rope becomes the guard.

Conclusion:

- *Alive faith will always lead to action.*
- *Rahab had faith and so she hid the spies.*
- *Our faith in Jesus will lead to action.*
- *Faith and good deeds go hand in hand.*
- *I pray that this week, you will live out your faith at home and school.*
- *That you will do the good things God has planned for you to do.*

Faith and Works

James 2:14-26

3-5 Group Time

Main Point - Faith in Jesus always produces good works.

Alive or Dead Role Plays

- Divide children into groups and have them create a short role play in the same pattern as described in the Children's Talk (i.e. someone notices someone's need, talks about the need and either does nothing to help the person or stops and helps).
- The group then has to say whether the person had faith that was dead or faith that was alive.
- Or, you could give each child an *Alive* or *Dead* voting plaquard (i.e. the word *Alive* on one side and the word *Dead* on the other side of the plaquard) to hold up at the end of each drama as a way of voting.

Conclusion:

- *Faith can either be alive or dead.*
- *Faith that is dead is when people say they love and follow Jesus, but they live selfish and unloving lives.*
- *Faith that is alive is when people say they love Jesus and live lives that care for and love other people.*
- *Faith without good works is dead faith.*

Story Time

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She'd heard how he'd dried up the sea and let his people escape Egypt.*

How he'd given the Israelites victory after victory against their enemies.

She knew that Israel's God is the one true God.

He alone had the power to save his people.

*So Rahab put her faith in him.
And we know that her faith was real because she hid the spies and safely sent them home a different way.
Her faith was shown to be real faith by what she did.*

Option 1

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Picture 4: Joshua's army, red rope down Rahab's window

Picture 5: Walls down, Rahab and her family safe

Discussion Starter (small groups)

- *Your friend says they are a Christian. All day they have been very cruel to a new boy, Freddy (he has big ears). You remind your friend that Christians shouldn't be cruel. Your friend says to you, "I love God! That's enough. It's none of your business how I treat Freddy." What do you say to them?*
- Read James 2:26
- *Is your answer any different?*

Rahab (small groups)

Read Joshua 2:8-13

- *Why did Rahab leave her gods and her people and follow the God of the Israelites?*
(fearful, confident that God was on the side of the Israelites)
- *Rahab heard of God's power, how he saved his people. What did Rahab believe about the God of the Israelites? v11*

(the God of the Israelites is the one true God, he is the Lord of all)

Read Joshua 2:1, 6, 15, 21 and James 2:25

- *What did Rahab do that shows you she really did put her faith in the God of the Israelites?*
(she took the spies into her house, she hid them and sent the guards off in a different direction, she let them escape over the wall, she tied a red rope to her window)

Read James 2:14-17

- *Remember the Children's Talk? When the man first came on, did he have true faith? How do you know?*
(no, he said he believed in/loved Jesus but he didn't show it by the way he lived, he didn't love others, he didn't share his coat or his food and he didn't help them with their work)
- *What does verse 17 and 26 say about this sort of faith?*
(it's dead, and because it's dead it can't save)

For Year 5 only:

- *Who has this sort of faith? v19*
(the demons, they believe God exists and are afraid, but they don't change to live God's way)

For Years 3-5:

- *The second time through, did the man in the Children's Talk have true faith? How do you know?*
(yes, he said he believed in/loved Jesus and he showed it by the way he lived, he loved others, he shared his coat and his food and he helped them with their work)
- *What does verse 18 say you can't do?*
(separate faith and good works)

Conclusion:

- *It's a bit like children who are joined together when they are born.*
- *They are two different children.*
- *But they both share the same heart.*
- *If you try and separate them, they will die.*

- *But they are both different.*
- *Faith and good works are like that.*
- *Different, but you can't have faith without good works.*
- *A person who says they believe in Jesus but lives their own way, is fooling themselves.*

Application:

- *Is your faith alive or dead?*
- *Can someone look at the way you treat your mother and father, your brother or sister, your friends and your enemies and know that you love the Lord Jesus?*
- *Would there be enough evidence in your life for people to convict you of being a Christian?*

Prayer Time

- Ask God to help them live out their faith by doing good to others, the way Jesus did.
- Or, if they are not sure, ask God to help them to put their faith in Jesus.

The Spy Game

Need:

- wide open space for the children to run
- a water spray gun, one per group
- a red rope or ribbon, one per group
- blindfold, one per group

Instructions:

- Divide the children into groups of about 10.
- Select a guard to protect the red ribbon (represents the walls of Jericho where Rahab lived).
- The guard is blindfolded.
- The rest of children are evenly spaced in a circle around the guard on what is described as the outer area.
- The aim is for the children to creep up and capture the red rope/ribbon without being detected by the guard (i.e. sprayed with the guard's water spray gun).
- If caught (sprayed), they return to outer area and begin again.
- Any child who captures the red ribbon/rope becomes the guard.

Conclusion:

- *Alive faith will always lead to action.*
- *Rahab had faith and so she hid the spies.*
- *Our faith in Jesus will lead to action.*
- *Faith and good deeds go hand in hand.*
- *I pray that this week, you will live out your faith at home and school.*
- *That you will do the good things God has planned for you to do.*