

GENESIS STUDY QUESTIONS

August 30 2009

James 2:14-24 "Works of Faith"

LEADER PREPARATION

Question to be pondered: Do you actively participate in the faith you profess?

The Big Idea: The reality of your faith is revealed by how you live your life.

Leaders: As a community of faith, we desire to understand the connection between our belief in God and how we live out our faith. Is it enough to just believe in God, or is there more? This week's study will attempt to help us gain a practical understanding of Genesis' vision as Christ-followers..., "to be the church to Santa Cruz County and beyond."

Getting Started

What was the last movie you watched at home or in the theater? Did you like it? Why or why not?

If your faith/belief in God was a movie title and/or tv show, what would it be?

Digging Deeper

What is "church" really about?

If the "church" is less about a building we meet in and more about the people (body of Christ), What does the phrase "Be the church to Santa Cruz County and beyond" mean to you?

Leaders: Please record the responses from your group. We at Genesis would like to see them in order to gain a better understanding of how Genesis can better impact our community.

Read James 2:14-24.

After reading the passage, how would you describe the difference between "being part of a church" and "being the church"?

In verse 15, James gives us an example of faith in action (being the church). Re-write it using your own words. Think of a practical way to use deeds as a way of living out your faith.

Re-read verses 17 and 18. What connection does James make between faith and deeds?

Application

Ask yourself the following question: Where is your faith in action?

- A. Time spent at church on Sunday
- B. The rest of the week

This is not a question to elicit guilt. It is intended only to act as a means to evaluate our own profession of and participation in our faith.

So...where do we go from here?

Read James 3:13 and James 1:5. Here we find practical teaching on how we can begin to "be the church" instead of just "being a part of a church."

What do we need in order to participate in the faith we profess?

See James 3:13

How do we obtain it?

See James 1:5

CHALLENGE!

Ask a family member or friend to answer the following question:

"If you knew nothing about my profession of faith, but observed everything I did all week long, would you conclude that I was all about Jesus?"

Pray and ask God to use their response to encourage you, so that the reality of your faith is revealed by how you live your life.