

BE A BRINGER

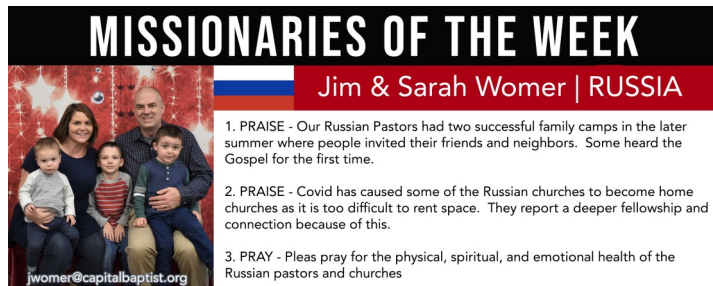
“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK
Jim & Sarah Womer | RUSSIA

1. PRAISE - Our Russian Pastors had two successful family camps in the later summer where people invited their friends and neighbors. Some heard the Gospel for the first time.
2. PRAISE - Covid has caused some of the Russian churches to become home churches as it is too difficult to rent space. They report a deeper fellowship and connection because of this.
3. PRAY - Pleas pray for the physical, spiritual, and emotional health of the Russian pastors and churches



FORWARD
BY FAITH
growth guide

Handout: 01/03/21

Study: 01/10/21

Faith That Saves

Do you know anyone who would readily say, “I believe in God,” but has no other indicator of Christian faith? How might you respond to that person? James 2:14–26 offers them some chilling words. In James 2:19, he says, “You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!”

In this passage, James is talking to believers about someone who claims to have faith, most likely a person in their congregation. This person is a professing believer, and the big question James wants them to ask themselves is, Is my faith real?

James 2:14–26 is probably the most controversial passage in the book of James. As Christians, we believe that Scripture alone is the written revelation of God, that salvation is through faith alone, by grace alone, in Christ alone, and that we live for the glory of God alone.

But if those are true confessions, then what does James mean when he says that “a person is justified by works and not by faith alone” (James 2:24)?

These verses aren’t a contrast between faith and works. They’re a contrast between true faith and false faith. Anyone can say they believe in God, even demons (James 2:19)! True faith is proved real because it results in good works. False faith is proved dead because it doesn’t.

The key to understanding the relationship between faith and works is to identify the timing of the works. Are they pre- or post-salvation? Paul talks a lot about pre-salvation works. He makes it clear that salvation is never earned through works or good deeds (Eph. 2:8–9). James talks more about post-salvation works. He makes it clear that salvation always results in works and good deeds (James 2:18).

Paul and James are in complete agreement: works without faith won’t save you. They also agree that professed faith that doesn’t result in good works isn’t saving faith.

If you profess faith in Christ, James 2:14–26 should have one of two effects. It should confirm the validity of your faith and spur you on to good works. Or it should help you realize that your profession of faith is false.

Has your faith in Christ changed how you interact with and love your neighbor? Or are you only inclined to do good for others when you can benefit? If the latter, ask God to give you true, saving faith. If the former, ask God to continue to produce many good works in and through you as a result of such a great salvation.

Source: “What’s the Deal with Faith and Works in James?” by Courtney Doctor

KEY VERSE

James 2:14 (NKJV)

“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: James 2:14-26; Matthew 7:26-27

Introduction

1. What are some words you could use to describe your faith?
2. Who is someone in your life who demonstrates great faith? What makes their faith great?

Tuesday: James 2:14-18; I John 5:13; Matthew 7:20-23, 12:34-35

Dead Faith

3. Based upon today's readings how would you define dead faith?
4. What is the difference between dead faith and saving faith?

Wednesday: James 2:19; Mark 1:23-24, 3:11; Luke 4:41

Demonic Faith

5. Based upon today's readings what do demons believe about Jesus?
6. What is the difference between demonic faith and saving faith?

Thursday: James 2:20-26; Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12

Dynamic Faith

7. How would you describe dynamic faith based upon today's readings?
8. What should the relationship between works and faith be?
9. Our passage in James uses Abraham and Rahab as illustrations. How would you describe their faith?

Friday: Romans 10:9-13; Acts 16:30-31; Revelation 21:1-7

Do You Have A Faith That Saves?

10. What is your testimony? How did you become saved? If you are not saved what are some reasons why?
11. If you are saved, what are you looking forward to about heaven?
12. List some people in your life who don't have saving faith. How will you help them?