

Week 7, Devotional 1 – James 2:18

Activity	Source
Prayer	<u>Adoration:</u> Lord, you are good when we aren't. You are faithful when we lack faith ourselves. We want to honor you in the way we live. Help us now to understand you and follow faithfully what your Word says.
Scripture Reading	James 2:18
Discussion Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This verse today is a follow up to the idea that was summarized well in verse 17 (read that one again). What does it mean that we will show someone our faith by our works? (hint: our beliefs shape our actions. If we believe what the Bible says, we ought to live in a certain way). 2. How has someone shown you – by the way they treated you – that they love the Lord? 3. How have you shown someone else? 4. What are some things that the Bible says that you've tried to live by lately? (aka allowing your faith to show in your works). 5. Do we have to work hard to get to heaven? (hint: no – Jesus is the only way we get to heaven. But because we believe in Him, He motivates us to serve God and others). 6. What did you learn through this lesson?
Hymn/Song	<p>Listen to "Do Something" by Matthew West</p> <p>V1: I woke up this morning Saw a world full of trouble now I thought, "How'd we ever get so far down?" And "How's it ever gonna turn around?" So, I turned my eyes to Heaven, I thought, "God, why don't You do something?"</p> <p>Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of People living in poverty, Children sold into slavery. The thought disgusted me. So, I shook my fist at Heaven, I said, "God, why don't You do something?" He said, "I did." Yeah. "I created you."</p> <p>Now listen.</p> <p>Chorus: If not us, then who? If not me and you? Right now. Well, it's time for us to do something. If not now, then when? Will we see an end To all this pain?</p>

	<p>It's not enough to do nothing. It's time for us to do something.</p> <p>V2: I'm so tired of talking About how we are God's hands and feet. But it's easier to say than to be. Live like angels of apathy Who tell ourselves, "It's alright: somebody else will do something."</p> <p>Well, I don't know about you, But I'm sick and tired Of life with no desire. I don't want a flame, I want a fire. I wanna be the one who stands up and says, "I'm gonna do something."</p> <p>Chorus: If not us, then who? If not me and you? Right now. It's time for us to do something. Yes, it is. Come on. If not now, then when? Will we see an end To all this pain? Well, it's not enough to do nothing. It's time for us to do something.</p> <p>Bridge: We are the salt of the earth. We are a city on a hill Shine, shine, shine, shine. We're never gonna change the world By standing still. No, we won't stand still. No, we won't stand still. No, we won't stand still. No!</p> <p>Chorus again</p>
Prayer	<p><u>Confession:</u> Lord, we confess that we sometimes don't serve others very well. It can be hard to focus on other people when our lives are so busy – forgive us.</p> <p><u>Thanksgiving:</u> Thank you that you offer us forgiveness when we fail – and that you can fill us up with love for the people you've put in our lives.</p> <p><u>Supplication:</u> God, bring people to mind now that we can serve more effectively this week. We want them to know you like we do.</p>

Week 7, Devotional 2 – James 2:19

Activity	Source
Prayer	<u>Adoration:</u> Lord, we want to know all about you – but we want to know you in a special way – as a Father and a friend. Help us now as we read your Word.
Scripture Reading	James 2:19
Discussion Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This verse makes a HUGE claim – that demons believe in God. Have you ever thought of that before? 2. Do you think demons know the Bible well? (hint: yes – even Satan himself quotes Scripture many times in Matthew 4). 3. In this verse, James it making it clear that believing God exists isn't enough to get you into heaven. What must you believe? (hint: that you are a sinner in need of a Savior – and Jesus died in your place on the cross so that you can be forgiven if you turn from your sin and follow Him). 4. Have the demons done that? (no) 5. So belief in itself must be accompanied by us following Jesus. Does that make sense to you? How does that tie in with the whole “faith without works” thing we have been talking about? 6. What did you learn through this lesson?
Hymn/Song	<p>Look up “I Surrender All” by Selah</p> <p>V1: All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give, I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live.</p> <p>Chorus: I surrender all, I surrender all, All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.</p> <p>V2: All to Jesus I surrender, Humbly at His feet I bow, Worldly pleasures all forsaken, Take me, Jesus, take me now.</p> <p>V3: All to Jesus I surrender, Make me, Savior, wholly Thine, Let me feel the Holy Spirit, Truly know that Thou art mine.</p>

	<p>V4: All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee, Fill me with Thy love and power, Let Thy blessing fall on me.</p> <p>V5: All to Jesus I surrender, Now I feel the sacred flame. Oh, the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory, to His Name!</p>
Prayer	<p><u>Confession:</u> Lord, I don't just want to know things ABOUT you. I want to know you. And I confess that sometimes I view reading the Bible and praying as a chore. Help me to know you and follow after you.</p> <p><u>Thanksgiving:</u> Thank you that your Word reveals more about who you are and how we can know you more.</p> <p><u>Supplication:</u> Help me now to surrender my life to you and whatever you have for more – knowing that your plans are better than my own. I surrender all of my life to you, Jesus.</p>

Week 7, Devotional 3 – James 3:2-12

Activity	Source
Prayer	<u>Adoration:</u> Lord, you are so different than we are. We use our words like weapons, and your words bring life. You have only pure and good thoughts while our minds are filled with things that aren't so good. Help us strive to be more like you today as we read your Word.
Scripture Reading	James 3:2-12
Discussion Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. These verses say that if someone doesn't stumble in his words, he is perfect. Do you think any person has ever been able to avoid saying the wrong things even once? (hint: only Jesus). 2. Verse 4 says that our tongues steer our lives just like a small rudder can steer a giant ship. How can your words take you in different directions in life? 3. Have you ever said something you regretted? Do you want to share it? 4. Who does verse 8 say can tame the tongue? (hint: no man). 5. Is it enough to just avoid saying bad things? What kinds of things are we SUPPOSED to say? 6. How can you honor the Lord with your words? 7. What did you learn through this lesson?
Hymn/Song	<p>Listen to "Great are you Lord" by All Sons and Daughters</p> <p>V1: You give life, You are love You bring light to the darkness You give hope, You restore Every heart that is broken And great are You, Lord</p> <p>Chorus: It's Your breath in our lungs So we pour out our praise We pour out our praise It's Your breath in our lungs So we pour out our praise to You only</p> <p>V1: You give life, You are love You bring light to the darkness You give hope, You restore (You restore) Every heart that is broken And great are You, Lord</p> <p>Chorus: It's Your breath in our lungs So we pour out our praise We pour out our praise</p>

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Prayer	<p><u>Confession:</u> Lord, we confess that we often say things we shouldn't say. With the same mouth we use to sing worship songs, we cut people down or try to embarrass them. Forgive us.</p> <p><u>Thanksgiving:</u> Thank you that you give us something GOOD to tell others about. We don't just avoid saying the wrong things – but we get to bring others words of life and love like we find in the Bible.</p> <p><u>Supplication:</u> God, you fill our lungs up with air. Help us to give our words back to you in praise – and in how we encourage and love others.</p>

Week 7, Devotional 4 – James 3:15-18

Activity	Source
Prayer	<u>Adoration:</u> Lord, you are wise and your give us good things. We praise you and ask that you'd help us now to learn more about you and to follow you more closely.
Scripture Reading	James 3:15-18
Discussion Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read verses 15. What is the wisdom of the world like? 2. Now read verse 16. What comes from the wisdom of the world? 3. Have you ever felt like following the ways of the world instead of God has made you more selfish (self-seeking) or confused? Do you want to share anything specific? 4. How does verse 17 say that wisdom compares with the wisdom from God (aka the wisdom from above)? 5. What does the wisdom of God bring to our lives (v 17-18). 6. Which sounds better? 7. Which do most people live by? 8. Do you believe God has better plans for you than the rest of the world does? 9. What did you learn in this lesson?
Hymn/Song	<p>Look up "I Have Decided" by Elevation</p> <p>V1: I have decided to follow Jesus I have decided to follow Jesus I have decided to follow Jesus No turning back, no turning back</p> <p>V2: Though none go with me I still will follow Though none go with me I still will follow Though none go with me I still will follow No turning back, no turning back</p> <p>Chorus: Everything All I am and all I have to bring I will give to You my everything All I am and all I have to bring I will give to You my everything (And I will follow, my heart surrenders) All I am and all I have to bring (My Jesus I am Yours) I will give to You my everything (And I will follow, my life in Your hands) All I am and all I have to bring (My Jesus I am yours) I will give to You my everything (And I will follow, my heart surrenders) All I am and all I have to bring (My Jesus I am Yours)</p>

	I will give to You my everything (And I will follow, my life in Your hands) All I am and all I have to bring (My Jesus I am yours)
Prayer	<p><u>Confession:</u> God, I fall for the lie sometimes that living like non-Christians is going to bring me more joy and comfort. Expose that for the lie it is. Remind me that you are the one who offers peace and good fruits in my life. Forgiven me for when I doubt that.</p> <p><u>Thanksgiving:</u> Thank you that your Word provides us with insight into who you are and how you want us to live.</p> <p><u>Supplication:</u> Father, give us more of your wisdom. Life comes with many situations and decisions – and the more we know you, the more we know how to faithfully walk through all that has yet to happen in our lives.</p>