

Small Group Questions

June 25, 2017

James: Owning a Faith that Owns Us

James, Chapter 2

1. At the beginning of this week's message, Pastor Josh shared about being so consumed with the thought of opening gifts on Christmas Day, that he could never fall asleep on Christmas Eve. When you were a child, how do you remember handling and dealing with the excitement of Christmas? Are things different now?
2. In your own words, share what you feel like the difference is between owning something and being owned by something.
3. Share about a personal experience from your journey where you were owned, possessed, or consumed by a possession, relationship, or moment.
4. When the words contained in the book of James were originally written or spoken, they would have been received by a group of people who were living during a famine. Read the words of James 2:14-26 as a group, try to imagine hearing them in the midst of a food shortage, and discuss your reflections on the text.
5. What verse or concept from this portion of James seems most challenging to you at this point in your life and why?
6. James references two Old Testament stories in this week's text, a story from Abraham's life (Genesis 22) and the story of Rahab (Joshua 2:1-21). Remember or reread these stories together and discuss some of the reasons as to why you think James chose them specifically to reinforce his point.
7. James 2:26 says, "Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works." (NLT) Take a moment to think about your faith and the role it plays in your daily life. Which is more true for you: you make decisions and act based on your faith, or, you make decisions and act and utilize your faith when difficulties and struggles arise?
8. Most of the time, people don't develop the kind of faith James is promoting overnight, it takes time. The story from Genesis 22 happened when Abraham was well into his 100's. It took him a lifetime to be completely owned by his faith. What are some steps that you can personally take to grow in your faith? What are some things we can do together as a group? How do we move this conversation from spoken words to daily action?