



Week 2 “Dead Faith”

INTRODUCTION

Actions speak louder than words. Many of us can think of a person in our lives that can talk a big game and make something sound too good to be true. If you've identified someone already, does this individual typically come through on their word? Can they walk it like they talk it? Far too often, a well-intentioned promise that goes unfulfilled can lead to disappointment for both involved parties. Despite what may have been said, actions often dictate what's truly valued.

Question for thought: “Do your actions accurately represent what you believe in?”

In our faith journey, it's not difficult to say that we believe in God. It's easy to say the right, churchy things when necessary or play the Jesus-card when it suits us. Our most extravagant words are just a string of empty words if not proven by actions. God wants more than just our words to honor him. God challenges us to be **bold** in our faith and take action! When we encounter Christ, our lives are dramatically changed for the best. If this is the case, why wouldn't we want to show evidence of that change through our actions on a daily basis? It all starts with you stepping out and being **bold** in your faith. TAKE ACTION!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why should faith in Jesus prompt us into action?
2. Do you find yourself living this out in your own life? Explain what that looks like.
3. What holds us back from putting our faith in action?
4. Can we have faith without obedience to Christ?

Read James 2:14-20 & 26

5. What do you think the difference is between knowing *about Jesus* and living your life *for Jesus*?
6. What good is it to claim to have faith, but not show it by your actions?
7. Can the testimony of that kind of faith save anyone? Why or why not?

Read Ephesians 2:8-10

8. What is it about Jesus that makes you want to live your life with boldness and action?
9. From the verses you have read, what are your thoughts on James' view compared to Paul's view?
10. What steps as believers can we take to make sure that we are living our faith out and with boldness?

ACTION STEP

For your action step this week, make an intentional effort to examine your faith and whether or not you put it into action. It's so easy in today's world to say we believe in God, yet we do nothing to show it. Spend time seeking the Lord and asking Him to strengthen your faith and give you boldness! Make a list of things that you can do to step out in faith. Finally, choose something from that list and step out in faith this week and-in true Nike fashion-"JUST DO IT"!

Take Next Steps + Pray Together + Take Care of Each Other = Community Groups!