

# GET REAL

LIVE WHAT YOU BELIEVE

## SAVING FAITH REQUIRES SACRIFICE

Week 11 – James 2:20-26

**Week 10 Rewind:** *The “good” things that we do will NEVER pardon us from our sins and get us to heaven when we die, HOWEVER, if we have genuine, saving faith, then good works will be abundant in our life and our lifestyle will reflect our faith!*

### Read It | James 2:20-26

<sup>20</sup> You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

<sup>21</sup> Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.

<sup>23</sup> And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God's friend. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

<sup>25</sup> In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? <sup>26</sup> As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

### Good Stuff | Abraham...Who's he?

In the book of Genesis, we learn that God promised Abraham a son from whom he would receive countless descendants. Even though Abraham and his wife Sarah were very old, he believed God. Twenty years later, when Abraham was about 100 years old, Sarah conceived Isaac who became the joy and love of Abraham's heart. When Isaac was a teenager, God asked Abraham to place his son on an altar to sacrifice him as an evidence of Abraham's love and obedience toward God.

Abraham chose to obey God no matter the consequences. It had to cross Abraham's mind that God **promised** to make him the father of a mighty nation through Isaac and his descendants....Why would the Lord ask him to sacrifice that promise? Why would the Lord ask him to give up the good gift that God had given? Abraham had to risk all of his hopes and dreams on the conviction that God would keep His promise, even if God had to resurrect Isaac from the dead!

Abraham obeyed. He bound Isaac, placed him on the altar, raised the knife....and was literally stopped by an angel who said, “Do not lay a hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear (honor, reverence) God, because you have not withheld from Me your son, your only son.” Then Abraham looked up and saw that God had provided a ram that was caught in some bushes to take Isaac's place as the sacrifice!

*Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22*

## More Good Stuff | Rahab...Who's she?

Rahab, a Canaanite prostitute, decided that the God of Israel was more worthy of her allegiance than the idols of Canaan. Rahab showed her new loyalty by risking her life to protect two Israelites from the king of Jericho. (See *Joshua 2:1-24*)

### – Talk About It –

1. **How** did Abraham's actions demonstrate his **faith**?
2. Together, **read** aloud verse 22. **Give** as many examples as you can from the world around you where you see **faith** and actions working together.
3. **What** are some ways to truly put your **faith** into action on your campus?
4. **What** did Abraham **sacrifice**? **What** did that prove?
5. **What** do you think that Rahab **sacrificed**?
6. **What** are some things that the Lord asks us to give up to follow Him?
7. **Why** might the Lord ask you to **sacrifice** (give up) something good?
8. **Re-read** verses 21-23. **Why** was Abraham called "God's friend?"
9. **How** is your friendship with God demonstrated?

### – Live It –

**Get Real** | Abraham and Rahab had to be able to hear God in order for them to know what He wanted them to do. **How** does God communicate with you today for you to be able to be obedient and follow Him?