

Going deeper

The letter of James, was written by James, the brother of Jesus. He was not one of the Twelve, but became leader of the church in Jerusalem after the other apostles had left (cf. 1 Cor. 15:3-8; Gal. 1:18-19; Acts 15:13-21). The letter covers a number of topics with some sharp challenges about how we are to live. In this section he seems to contradict Paul, (cf. Romans 3:28 and James 2:24), but we need to see that they are making different points about the relationship between faith and works.

Read James 2:14-26

5. What kind of faith does James say is 'dead'?
6. What kind of faith do the demons have? How is that different from 'saving faith'?
7. Abraham was counted as righteous, because of his faith. How was his faith demonstrated?
8. How were Rahab's actions a demonstration of her faith? (cf. Joshua 2)
9. In the story from Matthew 25, what can we say about the faith of the three servants?

Now do the applying it to our lives questions...



**Week Beginning
Sunday 3rd December 2017**

Growth Team News

This is the last official week for Growth Teams this year, although you may want to arrange a social meet up at some point over the Christmas break.

Growth Teams will start again the week beginning 14th January 2018.



**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever.**

What will you do with what God has given you? *Matthew 25:14-30 (page 994)*

Space to take notes on the talk

1. The Future: _____

2. Good News for _____

3. Bad News for _____

Starter question

- ❖ When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Responding to the talk

1. What from the Bible passage or talk do you most hope to talk about today?
2. Read Matthew 25:14-18
 - a. Who does the man 'going on a journey' represent?
 - b. Why does he give different amounts to different servants?
 - c. A Talent was a large amount of money (approximately £250,000 in today's money). What different things might it represent?
3. Read Matthew 25:19-23
 - a. What does the master 'settling accounts' represent?
 - b. What do the 'good servants' receive as a reward? Does this give you any new insights into eternal life?
 - c. The first and second servants receive the same reward, although the first had gained more. What is this meant to teach us?
4. Read Matthew 25:24-30
 - a. What excuse does the third servant give for hiding his talent?
 - b. Why is he a 'wicked and lazy' servant?
 - c. How is God's judgement described here? Why is it just in this case?

You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.

Applying it to our lives

10. A Christian friend is worried that they can't do as much as they used to in service of God and the church. How might you encourage them with this Parable?
11. What gifts that God has given us are Christians most likely to be scared to use these days?