

THE PROVING OF FAITH

1. Read James 2:14–26 and review what James has already said about faith in 1:2–4. What seems to be the main point in these verses?
2. Who is James addressing in verse 14?
3. In verses 15–16 James gives an example of dead or worthless faith that doesn't save. What problem do you think James might be addressing in this young church?
4. What principle about faith does he give in verses 17, 20, and 26? From Your own experience, what do you think motives you to action?
5. How does James challenge the attempt to separate faith and deeds? (verse 18) In your own words, summarize the relationship between faith and deeds.
6. James offers Abraham and Rahab as two examples from the Old Testament of genuine faith. You can read their stories in Genesis 22:1–19 and Joshua 2:1–24.
 - A. What did Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac prove? (Genesis 22:12)
 - B. What encourages you as you think of Rahab as an example of faith?
 - C. How are Abraham and Rahab different?
7. According to verses 21 and 23, on what basis was Abraham declared righteous before God?
8. Read Romans 3:28; Galatians 2:15–16; and Ephesians 2:8–10 and compare them with what James teaches. How would you explain how both of these teachings can be true?
9. How does your faith make a difference in the way you think or what you do?