

Core Values - Love

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God calls us to love all people //

We spread hope by meeting tangible needs both locally and globally.

1. The world _____.

2. God calls us to love and serve the poor. _____.

“My friends, what good is it to say you have faith, when you don’t do anything to show that you really do have faith? Can that kind of faith save you? If you know someone who doesn’t have any clothes or food, you shouldn’t just say, ‘I hope all goes well for you. I hope you will be warm and have plenty to eat.’ What good is it to say this, unless you do something to help? Faith that doesn’t lead us to do good deeds is all alone and dead! Suppose someone disagrees and says, ‘It is possible to have faith without doing kind deeds.’ I would answer, ‘Prove that you have faith without doing kind deeds, and I will prove that I have faith by doing them.’ You surely believe there is only one God. That’s fine. Even demons believe this, and it makes them shake with fear... Anyone who doesn’t breathe is dead, and faith that doesn’t do anything is just as dead!”

James 2:14-19a, 26 (CEV)

3. Faith without works _____.

“Now the whole offer which Christianity makes is this: that we can, if we let God have His way, come to share in the life of Christ. If we do, we shall then be sharing a life which was begotten, not made, which always existed and always will exist. Christ is the Son of God. If we share in this kind of life we also shall be sons of God. We shall love the Father as He does and the Holy Ghost will arise in us. He came to this world and became a man in order to spread to other men the kind of life He has — by what I call ‘good infection.’ Every Christian is to become a little Christ. The whole purpose of becoming a Christian is simply nothing else.”

Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis

Small Group Questions

1. Has anyone in your group ever been on a short-term mission trip? Share a favorite memory.
2. Interact with our fourth core value: “God calls us to love all people // We spread hope by meeting tangible needs both locally and globally.” What does this mean to you? How do you personally contribute?
3. Have someone read James 2:14-19. What do you think is James’ main point?
4. Why do you think James uses demons as an illustration of the contrast between faith and belief? What is the difference between faith and belief?
5. Now read Matthew 5:13-16 and compare it to the passage in James. How are the messages similar? How are they different?
6. If you attended Sunday service, J.D. shared some startling statistics about our community. What were you most surprised by?
7. Based on J.D.’s message on Sunday, what does it mean to “let your light shine” in our community and beyond? What specifically is Jesus talking about?
8. On a scale of 1 to 10, how bright is your light of service? Explain.
9. When was the last time you intentionally carved out some time to serve people in the community? What did that experience accomplish, either in you or in those you served?
10. Take turns reading aloud from Matthew 25:31-46. How do Jesus’ words impact you? What is your reaction as you think about your own life?
11. Is it time for your group to serve together again? What specifically are you going to do, and when?
12. Pray for your group, that it would truly be a light in this world through your actions.