JOURNAL PAGE **MIDDLE SCHOOL** SESSION 5

CROSS-CHECKING

Define the Deeds

As you read these passages from your Bible, see what you can learn about works or deeds (the New International Version sometimes uses the phrase *observing the law*). You'll notice that while we're encouraged to do some deeds, we're cautioned about doing others. Record what you learn about each deed in the proper column and then move to the next set of questions.

Bible Verses	Deeds We're to Do	Cautions about Our Deeds
Matthew 25:31-46		
Galatians 5:6		
Romans 3:20-28		
Titus 3:8		

Circle anything you wrote down that sounds similar to what James says about deeds.

Based on James and the passages in the chart, what should real faith look like?

What about you? Are faith and deeds working together in your life? This doesn't refer to church activities or personal devotions but to activities you do for others—the actions that give your faith arms and legs.

Since faith without action is dead, how would you classify the medical condition of your faith? (Base your answer solely on your actions—not your good intentions, your great personality, or your stellar leadership—just actions.)

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My faith is—

- ☐ dead
- ☐ on life support
- ☐ in intensive care
- ☐ in the emergency room
- ☐ showing symptoms of sickness
- ☐ showing improvement in vital signs
- ☐ alive and kickin'

Think about the activities that kept you busy last week. Whom were you serving through those activities?

- ☐ myself
- ☐ my friends
- ☐ those who can pay me back somehow
- ☐ those who can't repay me, like the ones Jesus mentioned in Matthew 25

What's the Holy Spirit impressing upon you right now? Would you like your life to be geared more toward the actions James spoke of? You can start small—by showing those you live with that your faith means something. List some ways you can back up your faith with deeds when you're at home.

Now think a little bigger. How about fellow students at your church or school? How could you demonstrate your faith to them?

TAKING IT INWARD

Do Good and Do It Secretly

As your group discusses the illustrations James gives in James 2, you can write notes here.

James' Illustrations	Types or Characteristics	Corresponding Deeds Today

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