

SHOULDA, WOULDNA, COULDA

Part 3

Key Scriptures: James 2:14-19; Matthew 7:13-17; James 2:25

1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- An oxymoron is a phrase that uses 2 words that don't make a lot of sense because they contradict each other. What is your favorite Oxymoron? (possible answers include: CRASH LANDINGS; ADVANCED BEGINNER; CONTROLLED CHAOS; ORIGINAL COPY; SMALL CROWD; PEACEKEEPER MISSILE; CIVIL WAR)

1. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Did you know: Oxymoron comes from the Greek words *oksús* (meaning "keen") and *mōros* (meaning "stupid")? The word oxymoron is quite literally an oxymoron! Can a person act in an oxymoronic fashion? Give an example.
- James points out that faith without deeds is oxymoronic. Why does faith have the power to save, while our actions do not? (Pastor put it this way: None of these good works can save you from God's judgment, but they are evidence of a faith that will save you from God's judgment.)
- Even the demons believe that there is one God, but if your faith doesn't change how you live here, can it change where you live forever?

2. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- If someone was watching your life throughout the week, would they see clear and definitive evidence that you are a Christian? Why?
- Did you consider that they saw what you did in public AND in private? Would they change their answer if they saw you in private too?
- Is your lifestyle shaped by your culture or your Savior? By Jesus or by the friends you surround yourself with? By Jesus or by the music and musicians that you listen to?
- What are you doing today that you would have never done if it weren't for your faith in God?

3. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- In Matthew, we learn that the fruit you produce is an indicator of who you really are, and some are on a path that will lead to eternal destruction. And some are on a path that will lead to eternal life. Pray that:
 - People in your life choose the path that leads to eternal life. (Pray for them by name.)
 - The fruit of your faith produces deeds that challenge others to seek answers in Jesus Christ.

4. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Learn a simple way to discuss and share your faith with friends and family. (So that you are prepared when the opportunity arises. You can find a simple and clear way to share your faith called the three circles here: <https://www.mosaicgc.com/jesus/>)