

# THE LINK

*Devotional Living  
Guide, October 5, 2008*

**Sugar River United  
Methodist Church**

## **Prayer Link**

*Prayers for the  
community*

## **Praise & Thanksgiving**

### **Pray for God's Healing Touch on...**

Linda Cook,  
surgery  
complications

### **Pray for...**

Pray for Sugar  
River UMC, its  
leadership, and its  
ability to honor  
God and inspire  
people to connect,  
grow and serve;  
American Troops  
& their families.

E-Prayer Chain: A group  
of people have  
covenanted to pray for  
special requests they  
receive periodically via e-  
mail. Please send your  
request to

[sugarriverumc@tds.net](mailto:sugarriverumc@tds.net)  
(Quicker response and  
more confidential)

Prayer Link Listing: If  
you would like to have  
your concern listed in this  
weekly publication, please  
contact the church office:  
[sugarriverumc@tds.net](mailto:sugarriverumc@tds.net)  
or call 845-5855

## **James: The Christian Life Manual How to Live with Faith and Works James 2**

## **Inspirational Link**

*Thoughts &  
insights from  
Worship*

## **The Word Link**

*Daily Readings  
from God's  
Word*

The book of James deals with the practical side of faith, which means trusting God even in hard times. We will reflect upon the challenges understand faith and its relationship to doing good works to the glory of God.

Resources: Life Lessons with Max Lucado: James, 2007.

**Monday, October 6 – Read James 2:1-13**

Why is it wrong to treat rich people better than poor people? How does God treat the poor and powerless? Explain how partiality makes us unjust judges. How does showing favoritism indicate a feeling of superiority? List some of the ways Christians can show mercy.

**Tuesday, October 7 – Reread James 2:1-13**

What example does Jesus set for his followers? **Read John 13:14-15.** Jesus washes our feet for two reasons. Max Lucado states that Jesus washes our feet to give us mercy and a message. Jesus offers unconditional grace that we might offer it to others...do what Jesus did. The mercy Jesus offers us precedes our mistakes; our mercy must precede the mistake of others. What does it mean to have a heart like this? (kneeling in service to others...sometimes dealing with dirty smelly feet) List examples of favoritism or prejudice you see in the church today. How does this illustrate a lack of mercy?

**Wednesday, October 8 – Reread James 2:1-13**

List people you think might feel uncomfortable in our church. What would happen if Jesus brought some of those people to our church next week? If you have been a victim of favoritism or prejudice, how did it make you feel? How can the expression of a servant's heart change our attitudes toward the poor and vulnerable? This passage allows no wiggle room for ambiguity—favoritism is sin. Let's help keep our lives and our community accountable.

**Thursday, October 9 – Read James 2:14-26**

"James is addressing broad issues of faith that were not culture-bound or place-bound. In his blunt straightforward way, James minced no words when it came to faith and works. Using some heavy-duty Old Testament examples, he argued that a life of faith should be active and proactive." – Lucado. Why is faith without works dead? How is living faith demonstrated? How do people rationalize inactive faith? Explain why mere belief in God is not enough. Looking back on this week, how is your faith demonstrated through your actions?

**Friday, October 10 – Reread James 2:14-26**

James gives us some very practical definitions of faith. What do we learn from verse 14? For more emphasis, look to verse 20. What do we learn from verse 17? Look ahead again to verse 26. Is faith a noun or a verb? see verse 19. What role does active obedience play with faith...see verse 23-24, Abraham and Rahab. Compare what you have learned with Hebrews 11. Why is it important to help others?

**Saturday, October 11 – Reread James 2:14-26**

How is helping others part of a disciplined spiritual life? List ways you can reach out to someone in need in your immediate circumstances. How does spiritual discipline help us to practice true Christianity? How can you develop spiritual discipline in your life? For more insight on faith and works read John 14:12, Philippians 2:17, 2 Thessalonians 1:11, Hebrews 6:9, 2 Peter 1:5-7.

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**The Spirit Link**  
*God's Action Point  
for my Life*

I feel led by God to...