

LIFE GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“Are Good Works Required?” October 25, 2026

Summary

In this final message of the *What's in the Water?* series, Kyle explains that we are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus, not by our good works. But when Jesus saves us, He makes us new and gives us a new purpose: to do good works. As Ephesians 2:10 teaches, we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works that He has prepared for us.

Kyle uses the picture of kintsugi, the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with gold, to show how God takes our broken lives and makes us new. Our good works don't earn God's love or save us; they are the natural result of the new life we receive through Jesus. Like Lydia, who responded to her new faith by opening her home to Paul and his companions, we are called to live differently and serve others because of what Jesus has done for us. Baptism publicly declares this new life in Christ.

Scripture

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”
Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.
James 2:14-18 (NIV)

Let's Start

What's something you own that's a little broken, worn out or imperfect but you just can't bring yourself to throw away?

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God been at work in your life since we last met?

LIFE GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Let's Talk

1. Kyle used the picture of kintsugi pottery to describe how God makes us new. What stood out to you about this illustration? How does it help you understand what God has done for you?
2. Why do you think people sometimes believe they need to do good things to earn God's love or approval?
3. Kyle explained that we are not saved *by* good works but are saved *for* good works. How would you explain the difference to someone who is unfamiliar with Christianity?
4. James teaches that faith without action is dead. How can our actions demonstrate that our faith in Jesus is real? What might this look like in everyday life?
5. Kyle shared a hypothetical story about a neighbor who lost their home in a fire. What does this example teach us about the difference between saying we care and showing we care?
6. Lydia responded to her new faith by opening her home to Paul and his companions. What are some practical ways you could use your time, resources or home to serve others in response to what Jesus has done for you?
7. What helps you stay focused on the new life God has given you? How do practices such as Bible study, prayer and relationships with other believers help you grow in your faith?

Let's Act

One of Wooddale's five marks of spiritual maturity is to **live generously**. How does understanding that your salvation is a gift from God affect your willingness to give your time, resources and attention to others? What is one way you could live more generously this week?

LIFE GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.