



SESSION 5: THE FOUR FRIENDS: AN ACTIVE FAITH

1—DON'T SPEND IT ALL IN ONE PLACE

If you like money, jam over to Acts 2:44-47.

Juanita decided to accept her senior pastor's challenge. He was asking everyone, from little kids to senior citizens, to keep track of all the money they spend during the next month. The goal was for people to understand some of the bizarre—and even frivolous—ways that they spend their money and to prompt them to use their money for different things.

By day six, Juanita knew she was in trouble. She had already spent three times as much money on fruit smoothies as she had on anything else. This continued throughout the whole month; and by the time she had calculated all of her expenses, she realized that with the exception of a new video game she had bought for herself, and of course that new necklace, most of her money went to fruit smoothies.

If Juanita were part of the community of people in Acts 2:44-47, she'd probably be making some different choices. She'd be giving more to others instead of spending it on drinks that were good and nutritious but not essential for her health and survival. If you include the amount of sodas, too, the money she spent on drinks in one month could feed a hungry person for two months.

What about you? Are you spending your money in ways that really count, or are you letting it trickle away on smoothies and gum? Ask God to show you how to spend your money to help others today.

2—HELP IS ON THE WAY

Race on over to Matthew 6:5-8.

Which of the following needs would be the toughest for you to meet if a friend came to you and asked for your help?

- ☐ A loan of \$500 to pay the rent, so her family wouldn't be evicted
- ☐ Mechanical help with fixing her family's old minivan that keeps breaking down
- ☐ Advice to help her and her sister to decide which parent to live with after the divorce
- ☐ An idea for getting along better with her grandmother

Maybe all of the needs seem pretty tough to you. The reality is that they are all pretty tough. It's so good to know that Matthew 6:5-8 is true—that our Father knows what we need

even before we ask. We can go to Him at any time and He'll welcome and understand us.

Think about a need that you have and a need that one of your friends has. Pray about both of those needs, asking God to show you what to do in your own life, as well as how to help your friend.

3—WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If you like TV, flip the channel over to James 2:14-17.

Kyra was flipping the channels, trying to find something to watch after her favorite afternoon cartoon ended. She started channel surfing again during one of its commercial breaks and ended up on a local news channel where some video footage caught her eye. The news story was about some teenagers near Kyra's age who were homeless. Because it was the winter, they nearly froze to death at night. Here Kyra was, watching TV in a warm and cozy family room while people her own age were almost freezing to death.

Kyra decided to do something about it. She went around to all her neighbors, asking them for any old blankets to donate to homeless teens. By calling the TV station, she talked with the reporter who had done the interview and found out where the homeless teens hung out during the day. With her mom and stepbrother, she went down to where they were and handed out the blankets she had collected. That night, although it was still cold outside, there were some homeless teens who were very grateful for Kyra's compassion for them.

Reread James 2:14-17. The next time you hear about someone in need, maybe there will be something you can do to help them. Even if you don't know them, God might be able to work through you!

DAY 4—THE GIRL IN THE HALL

Run, don't walk, over to 1 John 3:16-18.

That new girl in school with the funny shoes is coming toward you. Phew! She stopped at her locker. Just as you turn away, she opens her locker and someone runs past her, knocking her down. Her books and her lunch go flying and everyone around her starts laughing. What is your first reaction?

- ☐ Call her names and tell her how stupid she is
- ☐ Join in with those who are laughing at and mocking her
- ☐ Help her pick up her stuff
- ☐ Drop your own books to cause a diversion, giving her time to pick up her things

If you want to take 1 John 3:16-18 literally, there are two alternatives: You can either help her or drop your own books to divert attention. (The best choice of the two is to help her pick

up her things.) Loving in actions means acting. It's not just talking about loving, but letting your hands be the messengers.

Today, make a commitment to help at least one person. That person will feel better, and you probably will too because you are doing the right thing and you will know it.