MIXING FAITH AND WORKS



MATERIALS:

- I.ONE CUP OF VINEGAR: SYMBOLISING FAITH
- 2. ONE TABLESPOON OF BI-CARB SODA: SYMBOLISING WORKS
- 3. ONE BIG CONTAINER TO MIX THE TWO TOGETHER

METHOD:

- I.EXPLAIN THAT VINEGAR IS FAITH, AND BI-CARB SODA LIKE ACTIONS OR WORKS. THEY ARE CURRENTLY IN SEPARATE CONTAINERS.
- 2. COMBINING FAITH AND WORKS BY POURING VINEGAR AND THE BI-CARB SODA TOGETHER INTO A LARGE CONTAINER.
- 3. SEE WHAT HAPPENS IT WILL BE VERY COOL!

DISCUSSION:

 TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN FAITH AND WORKS COME TOGETHER. DISCUSS GOOD THINGS THAT CAN HAPPEN.

THINKING TIME:

 ASK EVERYONE TO THINK ABOUT HOW THE EXPERIMENT IS LIKE REAL LIFE WHEN FAITH AND WORKS ARE MIXED.

WRAP-UP:

- FINISH BY SAYING THAT JUST LIKE MIXING VINEGAR AND BI-CARB SODA CAN CREATE SOMETHING NEW, COMBINING FAITH AND WORKS CAN MAKE POSITIVE CHANGES IN OUR LIVES AND THE WORLD.
- THIS SIMPLIFIED VERSION ENSURES THAT THE METAPHORICAL NATURE OF THE EXPERIMENT IS ACCESSIBLE AND ENGAGING FOR A BROAD AUDIENCE, EMPHASISING THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF COMBINING FAITH AND WORKS.

FAITH AND WORKS

- I. FAITH AS FOUNDATION: FAITH IS CONSIDERED FOUNDATIONAL TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. BELIEVERS ARE CALLED TO HAVE FAITH IN GOD, HIS LOVE, AND THE REDEMPTIVE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST.
- 2. WORKS AS EXPRESSION OF FAITH: WORKS, OR GOOD DEEDS, ARE SEEN AS A NATURAL OUTGROWTH OF GENUINE FAITH. THE COPTIC CHURCH TEACHES THAT TRUE FAITH IS MANIFESTED IN A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, LOVE, AND SERVICE TO OTHERS.
- 3. JAMES' TEACHING: THE EPISTLE OF JAMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS OFTEN CITED IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT FAITH AND WORKS. JAMES 2:14-26 HIGHLIGHTS THE INSEPARABLE CONNECTION BETWEEN FAITH AND WORKS. WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PASSAGE IN UNDERSTANDING THE PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF FAITH.
- 4. SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH: WHILE EMPHASIZING THE NECESSITY OF GOOD WORKS, MAINTAINS THE FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINE THAT SALVATION IS A GIFT FROM GOD'S GRACE AND IS RECEIVED THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.
- 5. SACRAMENTAL LIFE: THE COPTIC CHURCH PLACES SIGNIFICANT EMPHASIS ON SACRAMENTS AS CHANNELS OF GRACE. PARTICIPATION IN SACRAMENTS, SUCH AS BAPTISM AND THE EUCHARIST, IS CONSIDERED AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND IS SEEN AS A RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE.

AND BECAUSE ALL THESE REASONS, IT IS FUNDAMENTAL TO EMPHASIS THE DOCTRINE OF FAITH AND WORKS AND HENCE THIS SIMPLE EXPERIMENT ILLUSTRATES THIS CRUCIAL CONNECTION BETWEEN THEM.