

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of July 18-24, 2021

“THE TEST OF GENUINE FAITH”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

When was the last time someone went out of his/her way to do something for you? What did that act of service mean to you?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read James 2:14-26

1. In your own words, how would you summarize James' point about the relationship between faith and works? In the sermon, we were given three illustrations of ways where faith and actions don't match. What are they? Can you share specific examples in your own life that this has ever happened?
2. The object of our faith is God. Why is this very important to remember especially in the midst of the “works” that a Christ follower may do? Is it actually possible to do works without faith? Can you think of some examples?
3. In 2:19, what is the problem with the faith of demons? How is this similar to a “dead” human faith?
4. How does Abraham's example demonstrate the point that faith without works is dead? (You may read the account in Genesis 22:1-14).
5. What do you know about the story of Rahab? (cf Joshua 2:1-15.) Why would Rahab be an unlikely example? Why do you think would James mention a prostitute?
6. Even as Christ followers, our hearts drift toward both of these errors: trying to earn God's favor through our performance and reducing our faith to mere verbal/ mental assent. How have you seen this in your life?

7. How does your faith affect the way you live? In what area of life (work, relationships, school, etc.) is it most difficult for you to put your faith into practice? Why? What blocks your faith from expressing itself in this way?

8. [NEXT STEPS]

Faith without works is dead.

- I will be aware of empty confession, false compassion and shallow conviction in my life.
- Question: Do I have active/obedient faith?
- Question: Am I growing in my faith?
- Question: Do I have bold/courageous faith?

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a faith that expresses itself in genuine fruitfulness.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

July 19. James 1:5-27
July 20. James 2:1-13
July 21. James 2:14-26
July 22. James 3:1-18
July 23. James 4:1-17
July 24. James 5:1-9
July 25. James 5:10-20