

DISCUSSION GUIDE

JAMES

Live your truth

OPENING UP



Think of a time when you received a gift that wasn't exactly what you asked for . . . maybe it was a knock-off version of the "real" thing. Share the difference between the gift you wanted and the gift you received.

TEXT



Faith in Action | James 2:14-26 (ESV)

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

MESSAGE OUTLINE



Big Idea: Genuine faith is revealed through actions.

1. Faith without actions is dead (vv. 14 – 17)
2. Faith with action is alive (vv. 18 – 26)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. In this passage, James distinguishes the difference between false faith and true faith. What is the difference? In your own life have you seen a difference between the two?
2. Verses 14-16 describes a scenario in which someone's faith didn't result in action. When have you experienced a moment in your life where someone's beliefs didn't line up with their actions? What did that demonstrate to you?
3. James shares three illustrations within verses 18-26: the "faith" of demons, the examples of Abraham and Rahab, and the relationship between body and spirit. How do these stories illustrate James' point? And how do these examples reveal our need to have a faith that works?
4. If true faith has action, what are ways that you can tell your faith is genuine?
5. If people were to read your actions, what would they say about your faith? How can we surrender to God so that what we believe about him is seen in faithful actions?

LIFE CHALLENGE



Take time this week to evaluate your own faith to determine if it is phony or faith that works. While James' words here can be challenging, they are also a good starting point to evaluate genuine faith. False faith is a reality and something that we must be aware of. Ask God this week to reveal areas in your life where you aren't acting on what you believe.

If you aren't already, begin acting out your faith and get in the game! Consider serving locally or globally. Go to woodsidebible.org/serve to discover multiple ways you can get involved or ask your Campus Pastor where you can make an impact within your community.

CLOSING PRAYER



Thank God for giving us new life in Jesus. Praise Him for His awe-inspiring work on the cross and His resurrection power.

Ask God to reveal what kind of faith we have. Ask Him to reveal areas in our life where we aren't acting on what we believe.

Pray for gospel transformation within our neighborhoods, our local communities, and within nations around the world.