



## Week 5 Discussion Guide

**Main Passage: James 2:14-26 ESV**

### Opening

- Begin with a brief welcome and prayer to set the tone for the group time.
- **Introduce the theme:** James challenges us to see that real faith is not just something we claim, but something that becomes visible in how we live. In this passage, James reminds us that we are saved by faith alone, but living faith never stays alone. It bears fruit through mercy, obedience, surrender, and love.

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### Discussion Questions

#### CONNECT

- Is there anything you can think of that you're better at in your mind than you are in practice? (Keep it light-hearted. Ex: You ever get excited to go for a run and then quickly realize you aren't as in shape as you thought you were?)
- Why do you think it's easier to talk about faith than it is to live it out? How is that like other areas in life? How is it different?

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#### DISCOVER

**Read Together: James 2:14-26 together.**

#### INITIAL OBSERVATIONS:

- What stands out to you most in this passage? Why?

#### DIG DEEPER:

- James begins by asking, "What good is it... if someone says he has faith but does not have works?" Why do you think James focuses on what someone says?
- In verses 15–17, James gives the example of someone in need of clothing and food.
- What does this teach us about the connection between faith and mercy?
- The message said, "Works do not replace faith. Works reveal faith." Why is that distinction important?
- James says even demons believe and shudder. What is the difference between believing true things about God and truly surrendering to God?

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#### APPLY

- The message asked, "Where are we offering religious words when Jesus is calling us to costly love?" How would you honestly answer that?
- What is one area where your faith has been more words than action lately?

- James uses Abraham as an example of costly obedience. What is something God may be asking you to trust Him with right now?
  - Faith is not about perfection, but signs of life. What are some “signs of life” you see God growing you in right now?
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### **GROUP PRAYER**

#### ***Pray Together as a Group***

#### **Pray:**

- **Faithfulness and Fruitfulness:** Ask the Lord for lives that bear fruit from obedience
  - **Hearts transformation:** Pray for hearts that do not merely hear the Word, but respond with mercy, obedience, surrender, and love
  - **Gratitude:** Thank the Lord for the transformation He has already produced in your life
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### **CLOSING**

- Encourage everyone to continue reading James in their free time. Next week’s passage is James 3:1-12 ESV