



## PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE – FEBRUARY 24



### HIGHLIGHT: *Primary Passage from Sunday*

**James 2:14-26:** <sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? <sup>15</sup>Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup>If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup>In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

<sup>18</sup>But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. <sup>19</sup>You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

<sup>20</sup>You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? <sup>21</sup>Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup>You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. <sup>23</sup>And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. <sup>24</sup>You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

<sup>25</sup>In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? <sup>26</sup>As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.



### EXPLAIN: *To Be Reviewed before the group gathering*

In this passage, James addresses the relationship between faith and works. James’ strong language shows the importance of works in the Christian life. He uses stories of Abraham (Genesis 22) and Rahab (Joshua 2) to further illustrate that our belief will inevitably impact our behavior.



## **APPLY: *For Group Discussion***

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1.) Read vv. 14-26 and Ephesians 2:8-10. On the surface, these passages seem to contradict each other on the topic of faith and works, but they actually compliment one another. How do you believe the Bible speaks about the relationship between faith and works?

2.) What statements of James stood out to you and why?

3.) How does the Bible's view on works differ from that of the world's? In what ways do you struggle to apply this perspective to your relationship with Jesus?

4.) Let's discuss the flipside of this relationship. In the life of a believer, there can be seasons where one's faith seems numb or stale or you have nagging doubts. When this happens, acts of obedience often feel like one is just going through the motions. When this happens to us, how should we respond?



## **RESPOND: *Bringing the discussion to a point of action***

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Let's personalize James message. Every one of us has an area where what we know about our faith doesn't line up with what we do. Though our works will not make God love us any more or less, it will allow us to experience the abundant life that Christ has for us.

- What is an area in your life where your faith is not "taking action?" (Reading my Bible, Praying, taming the tongue, fighting lust, giving, making disciples, serving, etc.)
- Why do you think that this is an area that you struggle to be motivated in?
- Our growth in Christ is about progress, not perfection. How can you take one step forward this week in the above area?