

James 2:14-26

How to Have Real Faith!

Life Group Study Guide

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For use by Sugar Grove Church of Christ Life Groups

***Your Job Is To Build People,
Not Just Lead a Meeting***

**Note: Intended direction of discussion is listed in italics after some of the questions. Please do not read these 'answers' to your group but instead use them to help guide your group discussion.*

Life Group Life:

- Make sure everyone in your group knows everyone else. If you have new members take a few minutes getting to know them and learning how they came to be connected to your group.
- In the past week what has been a high or a low or both in your life?
(Encourage each person in the group to share something from their week that has been a high and one thing that has been a low. There is not right or wrong answer to this question. This is an exercise that offers the opportunity to celebrate or mourn with each other. For example, if a group member shares a "low" that is really significant stop what your group is doing and pray over/with that person right then and there.)

Memory Verse:

"...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action is dead."

James 2:17

If your group has more than 8 people you may want to break into groups of 4-8 people to facilitate greater participation and discussion. Then come back together at the end of the discussion time and have someone from each group report the highlights of their discussion.

Grow:

- **Read James 2:14-17**
- **Why would faith not accompanied by actions be dead?** *(because true faith affects the heart and the heart affects the hands...)*
- **Why would faith that is not accompanied by deeds not save someone?** *(because a lack of deeds/actions indicates there is not really any faith, and if there is not any faith...)*
- **Read James 2:18-19**

- **James uses 2 different terms in these verses, 'faith' and 'believe'. What is the difference between faith and belief as they are being used here?** (*faith is something that completely changes you, belief is just something you know but that does nothing to change you.*)
- **Why can the demons believe in one God and still not be saved?** (*because heart transforming faith saves you, not right belief.*)
- **Read James 2:20-26**
- **Do these verses tell us that a person can be saved by doing the right things? Why or why not?** (*No, a person can do the right things with the wrong heart, that is without faith.*)

Serve:

- **Share some changes you can point to in your life since you accepted Jesus as your Savior. How is your lifestyle different from the unbelievers around you?**
- **Identify someone in your group or church family who has a practical need. As a group, discuss how you can meet their need as we are challenged to do in James 2:15-16.**
- **As a group, take a few minutes to discuss a project or ministry you could serve in together to meet a need in your church. Commit to ask someone in leadership about any unmet needs your group could meet.**

Share:

- **If you haven't accept Christ personally through baptism, be sure to talk to someone about your reservations and what is holding you back.**
- **Why is the command to love your neighbor as yourself so important if we are to help others come to know Christ? Share an example or a situation when someone came to Christ because of Christ's love being demonstrated in a very practical way.**

Worship:

- **We worship a God in whom we can put our full faith and belief! Spend a few moments in spontaneous prayer praising and thanking God for being, well... God.**
- **Ask the group for any prayer requests being sensitive to anyone who may need to accept Jesus as their Savior and submit to Him through baptism.**
- **Close your group time in prayer.**

Preperation for Next Time:

- **Read James 3:1-12**