



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week Three  
James 2:14-26

### MAIN POINT

The kind of faith that does not show itself through good deeds is no faith at all.

### PRAY

Take time **before** your discussion to pray with and for one another. Be sure to write down the things you'll be praying for so you can continue to pray for your group throughout the week.

### INTRODUCTION

*Use this section to get the group warmed up a bit. You can use one of these questions, or you could write your own based on this week's text.*

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

What kinds of things might keep us from putting our faith into action in our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and other parts of our lives outside of the church?

### READ JAMES 2:14-17

What does James teach about the relationship between faith and deeds?

What illustration did James use to explain how real faith affects a person's deeds?

How did James describe faith that has no accompanying deeds?

### READ JAMES 2:18-20

What would you say to a person who claimed to have faith in Christ but was living an unrepentant lifestyle of sin?

What might be some consequences for believers who are not clear on the relationship between faith and works?

### READ JAMES 2:21-26

In what ways are Abraham and Rahab different? In what ways are they similar?

Why do you think Abraham was called God's friend? What did Jesus mean when He called those who follow Him "My friends"? (See John 15:14)

James offers Abraham and Rahab as two examples of genuine faith. What did Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac prove? (See Genesis 22:12, James 2:22-23)



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Abraham showed faith by holding nothing back from God, not even his most valued treasure, his son. Are you holding anything back from God? Is there anything in your life that you wouldn't sacrifice for Him?

What do you consider the greatest example of faith you have ever seen? Why?

What were some of the victories enjoyed by faithful Old Testament believers? (See Heb. 11:32-34)

### PUT YOUR FAITH TO WORK

With what do you need to trust God even though you can't see what the future holds? How can you show this trust?

How would the world be different if every Christian demonstrated authentic faith as James describes it? What steps do you need to take to work toward that in your own life?

### PRAY

*Close your time by praying for the way that all demonstrate authentic faith by loving one another and the community.*