



Life Group Discussion Guide

July 14 – James 2 – Real Faith...Works

Icebreaker:

What have you purchased from Amazon that turned out to be a counterfeit?

Discussion Questions:

Leader Note: Some of these questions may be very personal for people. Reword them as necessary to broaden them out ("how have you seen others" vs. "how have you") if you believe that people will overshare, or you may even split up based upon gender.

1. Read **James 2:14-26** together.
2. What stood out to you from the sermon this weekend?
3. Have there been moments where you or others you know have evaluated their faith in Christ? How was a dead faith vs. an alive faith identified?
4. Ryan mentioned that alive faith can hold the weight and pressure of this life and the sins we face. Where would you say your faith handles pressure? Where does it struggle to handle pressure?
5. Had you ever considered that hypocrisy and integrity feel the same in the moment? Was there a way your hypocrisy was brought to the surface through this study?
6. What are ways that people are satisfied with correct thinking instead of obedience to God? What is the biggest danger of this to faith?
7. How have you seen people with "dead faith" make false choices when it comes to what the Bible teaches?
 - a. Are there any prominent "either/or" choices that people make where the Bible doesn't make those?
 - b. What advice would you give to someone making an either/or choice? Give specific examples.

8. Ryan gave several biblical examples to explain how faith and works are always together ("You see" from James as literal, Jesus seeing their faith with the paralytic, judgement throughout New Testament being tied in with works, etc.).
 - a. How did this expand your concept of how faith and works go together? Did one of these examples point out something new to you, if so, in what way?
9. In **Ephesians 2:8-10**, the order of grace, faith, and works is important.
 - a. How have you seen people get the order wrong in how they live the Christian life? How have you seen people get the order right?
 - b. Had you ever considered that the order of faith, works, and grace matters? Why or why not?
10. How have you seen others or how have you experienced your faith as relational vs transactional?
 - a. What are the things that cause us to treat God transactionally?
11. Had you ever considered that a better definition of faith is fidelity, loyalty, or allegiance (see Rahab or the example Ryan gave about Josephus, the Jewish historian)?
 - a. How does that help shape your actions in light of faith?
12. What is one thing that God is asking you to risk in order to advance his kingdom? What is one action step you will take this week to risk what God is asking you to do?
13. How would you help someone understand this statement, "Real faith works."?