

JAMES

MARK IT UP

James 2:14-26 Discussion Guide

Week of 4/3/22

Icebreaker: We're just a couple weeks away from Easter. What are your plans for celebrating Easter weekend?

Getting Started: Read James 2:14-26 as a group.

1. How would you summarize James' line of thinking in verses 14-17?

Application: How well does this fit your understanding of what saving faith entails?

2. In verses 18-19, James anticipates an argument that "faith" (that is, only believing certain things) and works are two different options for the Christian life. What do you think about that argument?

Application: What's an example of something you believe by faith but you find it difficult to take action in response to that belief? Why do you think it's hard?

3. In verse 19, James makes the argument that, "Even the demons believe—and shudder!" What point do you think James is making?

Application: How could this highlight the danger of being self-deceived about our faith?

4. James turns to two OT examples to make the point that faith apart from works is *useless* (literally in the Greek, it "doesn't work"). What was it about Abraham and Rahab that demonstrated their faith?

Application: What can you learn from their examples to encourage your own faith?

5. These verses from James have long been controversial because of how they appear to contradict that we are "saved by grace through faith" Eph 2:8. Paul's major contention is that we are justified by faith, not works. How can we reconcile these with James' argument that "faith without works is dead"?

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fully devoted to loving God and loving others.*

Application: If “faith apart from works is useless,” what kind of “works” or actions are you engaged in that demonstrate your faith? Is there an area of your life where you need to begin taking action?