

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

### A Faith That Works

#### APPLY // JAMES 2:1-13

**Main Idea:** Show no partiality; live mercifully by the law of liberty.

1. Read James 2:1-13.
2. What is James' main point in this passage? How does this connect to all that James has been saying?
3. Define partiality and discuss why it's a sin.
4. Why are we prone to show partiality? How might we be tempted in our specific context to show favoritism?
5. How does the gospel address the sin of partiality? How does the gospel compel and empower us to live mercifully under the law of liberty?

#### OBSERVE & INTERPRET // 2:14-26

**Main Idea:** True, saving faith shows itself by its works. (Salvation comes by faith alone—and saving faith doesn't remain alone).

1. Read James 2:14-26.
2. What is James' main point in this passage? How does this connect to all that James has been saying?
3. In verse 14, James begins with a rhetorical question. What's the point of his question? James asks "Can *that faith* save him?" What type of faith is James talking about here? Contrast this "faith" with true, saving faith.
4. Verses 15-16 provide an illustration of faith without works. What do you notice about the illustration? What is James trying to communicate to his readers?
5. James' conclusion comes in verse 17 and verse 26. What does James mean when he says "faith by itself...is dead" and "faith apart from works is dead"?
6. James imagines an conversation with a person in the first part of verse 18. What is the person in verse 18 trying to do with faith and works? How does James reply in the latter part of verse 18?
7. How does verse 19 support James argument that true faith works? What's his point in verse 19? Why isn't intellectual agree with true things about God enough to save?
8. In verse 20, James issues forth his argument again, "faith apart from works is useless." Following this statement, he provides a couple of illustrations:
  - a. Abraham: What event does James recall in verse 20? What's the significance that this event comes *after the event* James recalls in verse 23? In other words, what's the importance to realize the truth of Genesis 15:6 comes before the events in Genesis 22:6? Based on James' logic, what does he mean when he says "Abraham our father was justified by his works"?
  - b. Rehab: We find the story of Rehab in the beginning of the book of Joshua. Read Joshua 2:9-11. How does the story of Rehab show true faith in the Lord results in good works?
9. In verse 24, what type of faith does James have in mind when he says we are not saved by "faith alone"?
10. Some say James and Paul contradict one another. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and Galatians 2:15-20; 5:6. Discuss how Paul and James are consistent in their theology and understanding of the gospel.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** Follow up from previous weeks.