

**COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE****A Faith That Works****APPLY // JAMES 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. Why is James concerned that his readers might separate faith and works?
3. Why are we tempted to separate saying we have faith from actually working out our faith? Specifically, how are we tempted to separate our faith from our works?
4. How does the gospel compel us to work out our faith with works?

**OBSERVE & INTERPRET // 3:1-12**

**Main Idea:** The words we think in our heads and say with our mouths reveals the worship of our hearts. Or simply: our words reveal our worship.

1. Read James 3:1-12.
2. What's the main point of this passage? Recall what James has already said about speech in 1:26.
3. How does this passage connect to and flow from what James has already written?
4. In verse 2, what does James mean when he says, "If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man." Recall what James has already said about being perfect and complete in 1:4.
5. How does being able to control the tongue mean we're "also able to bridle the whole body"?
6. Discuss the illustrations in verses 3-4 James uses for our speech. From these illustrations what do we learn about our words?
7. What illustration does James use for our words in verse 5b? What does this tell us about our words?
8. In verse 6, James gives numerous characteristics and descriptions of the tongue. Discuss the meaning of these phrases:
  - a. "The tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness."
  - b. The tongue "stain[s] the whole body."
  - c. The tongue "set[s] on fire the entire course of life."
  - d. The tongue is "set on fire by hell."
9. In verse 7, what does James compare the tongue to? What's his point?
10. James provides a few more word pictures to help us understand the tongue in verses 11-12. Discuss these illustrations. What point is James making?
11. How does this passage point us to the person, work, and worth of Jesus?

**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:** Are there areas of your life where your faith is not producing works? Praise the Lord for where you see your, and each other's, faith at work.