

## Applying It In My Life .....Group time - 15 minutes

1. In what ways have you claimed to give spiritual help while neglecting to do anything practical for people in need? How does James challenge you to live differently?
  
2. James describes false faith in terms of mere sentiment (vss 15-16) and mere doctrine (vs 19). What is attractive about these forms of false Christianity? Are you in danger of having this kind of “faith”?
  
3. *“If works and love do not blossom forth, it is not genuine faith, the gospel has not yet gained a foothold, and Christ is not yet rightly known.” – Martin Luther.*

How has the gospel gained a “foothold” in your life? What is “blossoming forth”? To put it another way, if you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

### ACTIVE FAITH ACTION STEP | WEEK 04

Who is someone in need whom you have passed by without giving real help? Go out of your way this week to help in a practical way.

## Prayer Time .....Group time - 15 minutes

*Ask God to show you ways in which you may be in danger of a useless, false faith. Then ask God to enable you to be so in love with Jesus that you live with real faith like Abraham and Rahab.*

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## ***The Faith that Works*** **James 2:14-26**

*What kind of faith saves?*

### **1. False Faith**

James 2:14-19

### **2. Real Faith**

James 2:20-26

***A real faith is an active faith is a saving faith.***

# GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of February 5, 2017

## Getting Started .....Group time - 20 minutes

1. Tell about a time when you tried to be someone that you were not, or tried to fit in with a group that wasn't really you. Why didn't it work? What was the outcome?
2. Discuss the phrase: *"What we do reveals who we are."* Do you agree or disagree? Give some examples.

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

## Getting Into God's Word .....Group time - 40 minutes

### Read James 2:14-17

1. Put James' main question into your own words. How does his example and conclusion answer that question?
2. Write down what Paul, John, Jesus, and James each say about faith and works:
  - Paul (Galatians 5:6) –
  - John (1 John 3:10,17-20) –
  - Jesus (Matt 7:15-23; 25:31-46) –
  - James (James 1:27; 2:14-17) –

### Read James 2:18-19

3. According to verse 18, how does real faith reveal itself?
4. What kind of "belief" do demons have? Why isn't an accurate theology enough to be a saving faith?

### Read James 2:20-26

5. How were Abraham's faith and actions working together when he was willing to sacrifice his son? How did his work "complete" his faith? **Also read: Genesis 15:1-6 & 22:1-19**
6. How did Rahab's actions prove that she had genuine faith? If she didn't have this faith, how would she have acted differently? **Also read: Judges 2:1-24**

### Read 2 Corinthians 13:5

7. Since dead faith tries to pass itself off as saving faith, what should professing Christians do?

**"EXTRA CREDIT"**: Look at the verses below. How would you explain to someone that Paul and James are **not** disagreeing with each other? *Hint: Think through how they each use the words "faith" and "justified."*

Romans 3:28

"For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law."

James 2:24

"You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone."