



# STUDY GUIDE

## JAMES: Week 6 7.14.13

### [set up]

What is one of your favorite romantic couples in real life or in the movies? How do you know that they really and truly love each other?

If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? What would that evidence be?

### [digging deeper]

Read James 2:14-26. How would you summarize James' point in this passage?

Read Paul's words in Romans 3:28 and compare them to James' words in James 2:24. How would you answer the person who says that these two verses contradict each other?

Read Paul's words in Ephesians 2:8-10 and compare them with James' words in James 2:17-18. Explain how Paul and James are saying essentially the same thing but from differing vantage points.

What error does it seem that Paul is mainly seeking to correct? What error does it seem that James is mainly seeking to correct?

Chronology (the order of events) is important when it comes to faith and works. Explain it in simple terms. Note the sequence in Ephesians 2:8-10.

Read James 2:10 and discuss how this verse helps make the point that James is not saying that we can save ourselves by our good works.

Read Titus 2:7, 14; Titus 3:8, 11-14; and Ephesians 2:8-10 and discuss how these verses make the point that Paul is also saying that saving faith will result in a life committed to doing good deeds.

Read Matthew 7:17-27 and discuss how Jesus expects belief to be accompanied by action.

From what we've already read in James 1 and 2, make a list of works that you think James would expect to see in the lives of those who have saving faith.



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Scan James 3-5. What other works do you think James expects to see in the lives of those with saving faith?

Read Genesis 22 for the story about Abraham and Isaac. How does this example prove James' point?

Read Joshua 2 for the story about Rahab. How do we know that Rahab had both faith and works? How does this example prove James' point?

Use your Bible to answer the following 2 questions: 1) What would faith be without deeds? 2) What would deeds be without faith?

Paul gives us a description of our "compensation package" as a result of our faith accompanied by our good deeds in II Corinthians 5:10 and Colossians 3:23-24. How does this help to motivate you?

Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone. James is reminding us that saving faith doesn't stay alone. It works. How can we, then, make sure that James' message does not turn into a "do-more-try-harder" message? (Hint: See I Corinthians 15:10 and Philippians 2:13.)

## **[living it out]**

What did this study reveal about areas of growth in your life? What areas of strength did this study reveal?

How do your actions demonstrate the reality of your faith? In what ways can you bring your actions more in line with your beliefs? What 2-3 action steps will you take as a result of this study?

What are some good works that God been calling you to do that you have been resisting? What are you going to do about that?

Spend time praying for the person to your right - that he or she would put their faith into action. Also, pray for our entire church family at CVC - that , as a church, we would have true, saving faith that works.