

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

WANT MORE CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY?

- Check out this free **Verse-by-Verse Bible Commentary**, available through www.StudyLight.org.
- Watch an **overview video of the Book of James**, available from www.BibleProject.com.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- As a group, go around and share one or two truly life-changing moments each. What were some of the differences in your life after that moment?
- If you are a Christ-follower, what are some of the clear differences in your life since your salvation?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat helped us know how to evaluate whether or not our faith is real.**

Context and Correlation:

- In this passage, James seems to be at odds with some of the other biblical authors' view on faith and good works. After reading the passage, explain quickly how you think faith and works interact.
- Have you ever personally struggled with relying on Jesus and not your own accomplishments for your salvation? Explain that struggle to your group.

When Should You Be Worried Whether Your Faith Is Real?**1. When your faith hasn't changed your life (James 2:14-18)**

- True or false: If you want to be saved, confess your sins and believe what Jesus did for you.
- James says that any claim to saving faith not backed up with a changed life is "dead" (Greek: *nekros*). As a group, brainstorm what a "dead" faith might look like in someone's life. On the other hand, how might you be able to recognize a "living" faith in someone's life?
- Read Titus 1:16 together. The Apostle Paul tells Titus that there are some that claim to "know God" but they deny Him by "their works." Is it possible to know God and not live for Him? Why or why not?

2. When your head hasn't reached your heart (James 2:19)

- James 2:19 makes a very strong statement. James' point is that, while demons have great theology, they are not Christ-followers. They are "Bible smart but dead in heart." Do you know people that have lots of Bible teaching and not much Bible application? James compares people like that to demons. How can you avoid being like the demons?
- The Bible doesn't teach us salvation is faith *plus* works, but a faith *that* works. Does your faith work? What is the evidence?

Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that you and the people in your group would have a faith that works this week!

