

Real Faith Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Generally speaking, do you like to go with the flow or rock the boat?
2. Have you ever had a flying dream?

Read the following passage: James 2:14-26.

Faith is a central theme of the New Testament and the Christian tradition. But what is real faith? In the passage above, James reminds us that biblical faith cannot be separated from our actions. What we do is an expression of what we believe. Real faith is a grace-filled confidence in God expressed in obedience and love.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. How would you characterize the version of faith that James is critiquing in his letter?
2. James writes about faith in the context of salvation (see James 2:14). Describe the biblical concept of salvation using the following big elements in the biblical storyline.
 - Creation
 - Sin
 - Israel
 - Jesus
 - Judgment
 - New Creation
3. Read Mark 10:17-31. When a Jewish man asked Jesus about eternal life, why do you think Jesus referenced the commandments outlined in the Law of Moses? Do you think Jesus was implying that we can earn eternal life through our good behavior? Explain. What elements in this passage point to the necessity of grace for obtaining eternal life? How does this passage connect grace, faith, obedience, and salvation?
4. When you consider your own life, what do your actions say about your faith?
5. Overall, do you think your life is characterized by obedience to God? Explain.

6. What is one way you would like to put your faith into action this week?

Pray