

James
Small Group Guide
Week 5: Living Faith

In this series we will walk through the book of James and see how it tells students to prepare for the challenges of life ahead of them. We will look at 12 teachings about wholehearted devotion to Jesus and how we can mature our faith into wholeness.

Our memory verse for this series is James 1:2-3

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

SCRIPTURAL FOCUS

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good^{is} that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (James 2:14-17)

EVANGELICALS

- 1) Biblicism: a particular regard for the Bible
- 2) Crucicentrism: A focus on the atoning work of Christ on the Cross
- 3) Conversionism: The belief that human beings need to be converted
- 4) Activism: the belief that the gospel needs to be expressed in effort

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS

- 1) Useless
- 2) Ineffective
- 3) Dead

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Small Group Questions: Below are some topics to guide your discussion and sample questions. You know your students best. What questions can guide them through these ideas to a better understanding of God and a clear next step for themselves?

- 1) *Have you ever heard folks use the term evangelicals?*
 - a. *What was the context*
 - b. *What did they say?*
 - c. *How did they regard evangelicals*
 - d. *How did that match what we talked about today*
- 2) *Have you ever been in a situation where you've been significantly misunderstood? Why do you think that when the world talks about us (evangelical Christians) they never understand us?*
- 3) *Did those 4 aspects of what it means to be evangelical sound familiar to your experience? (do students resonate with the feeling that Crossbridge demonstrates Biblicism, Crucicentrism, Conversionism and Activism)*
- 4) *Have you ever heard someone profess Christianity but then say something that sounded very foreign to you?*
 - a. *Example "I don't have to read the bible to be a good Christian"*
 - b. *"I don't have to believe in Jesus to love God"*
 - c. *"My faith is private and that's how it should be"*
 - d. *"Believe what you want to believe just don't tell others about it"*
- 5) *Why do you think it's important to understand that works don't save you?*
- 6) *What would happen if we believed that we were saved by works?*
- 7) *Why do you think it's important that we understand that works are an important response to our faith?*
- 8) *Can you give some examples of where you see fruit (works) in the lives of Christians around you?*
- 9) *Can you give examples of where you see that in your own life?*
- 10) *What's one area of your life that you'd like to grow in to bear greater fruit in the next 3 months?*
- 11) *What can you do to make that happen?*