

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is your faith in Christ really making a difference in your life? Is your life changed because of your faith?
2. Describe the fruit of your faith. Is it good, bad, rotten? How are you determining its condition?
3. How are you involved in your church? What are some ministry areas that you are serving in right now?
4. Do you consider your faith private? Do others know what you believe?
5. Theology is important. How can we make sure it's not just intellectual?
6. In what specific ways have you demonstrated your faith lately?
7. Would you describe your relationship with Christ as vibrant? Why or why not?

Answers to fill in the blanks:
 1. JAMES 2:14-26 IS THE APEX OF THE BOOK. 1) TOWARD, BACK 2) LIFE CHANGING
 2. GOOD FOR NOTHING AND NO. 1) ALL, NOT ALL 2) EVIDENCE 3) FRUIT
 VITAL SIGN #1 - INVOLVEMENT, KNOW, CARE, PATRONIZE
 VITAL SIGN #2 - VISIBILITY, PRIVATE
 VITAL SIGN #3 - USEFULNESS, INTELLECTUAL
 VITAL SIGN #4 - DEMONSTRATION, ROOT, FRUIT, POLAR OPPOSITES
 VITAL SIGN #4 - VIBRANCY, SPIRIT

SERMON NOTES

LOOKS LIKE A DUCK...

James 2:14-26

1. JAMES 2:14-26 IS THE _____ OF THE BOOK.

- 1) Everything up to this passage points _____ this passage and everything after points _____ to it.
- 2) Because James knew what it was like to have empty faith in a useless religion, he wanted to show others how to have powerful, _____ faith in Christ.

2. GOOD FOR _____ AND _____

James 2:14 (CSB)

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can such faith save him?

- 1) _____ Christians claim to have faith, but _____ who claim to have faith are Christians.
- 2) The _____ of Christ in your heart is Christ in your lifestyle and actions.
- 3) Another description of the evidence of our faith is the term _____.

Matthew 12:33 (CSB)

³³ “Either make the tree good and its fruit will be good, or make the tree bad and its fruit will be bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

VITAL SIGNS OF YOUR FAITH ✓

VITAL SIGN #1 - _____

James 2:15–17 (CSB)

¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed,” but you don’t give them what the body needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way faith, if it doesn’t have works, is dead by itself.

- ❖ People don’t care about what you _____ until they know how much you _____. Don’t _____!

1 John 3:17 (CSB)

¹⁷ If anyone has this world’s goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God’s love reside in him?

VITAL SIGN #2 - _____

James 2:18 (CSB)

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith by my works.

- ❖ James challenges the idea of a _____ faith. If you can’t see it, how do you know if it exists?

VITAL SIGN #3 - _____

James 2:19–20 (CSB)

¹⁹ You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe—and they shudder. ²⁰ Senseless person! Are you willing to learn that faith without works is useless?

- ❖ _____ belief is useless if it doesn’t reach the heart, the hands and the feet.

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

VITAL SIGN #4 - _____

James 2:21–25 (CSB)

²¹ Wasn’t Abraham our father justified by works in offering Isaac his son on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active together with his works, and by works, faith was made complete, ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, **Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness**, and he was called God’s friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ In the same way, wasn’t Rahab the prostitute also justified by works in receiving the messengers and sending them out by a different route?

TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

- ❖ Paul – Emphasizes the _____ of salvation. (Romans 3:28)
- ❖ James – Emphasizes the _____ of salvation.
- ❖ Even as _____, Abraham and Rahab both demonstrated their faith through their actions. (Hebrews 11:17,31)

VITAL SIGN #5 - _____

James 2:26 (CSB)

²⁶ For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

- ❖ When we walk in the Spirit, we show the fruit of the _____ in our lives. (Galatians 5:22-23)

LOVE

KINDNESS

JOY

GOODNESS

PEACE

FAITHFULNESS

PATIENCE

GENTLENESS

SELF-CONTROL