



SHATTERPROOF

overcoming life's trials

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | FAITH THAT WORKS

WELCOME

- ◆ Spend a few minutes greeting everyone in the group.

ICE BREAKER/INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS

- ◆ What helps you believe someone means what they say?
- ◆ What are some ways to determine if something is real or genuine?

DISCUSSION

1. The church which existed when James was writing this letter, was “under the microscope,” of surveillance by a hostile world. What are some signs that the church of today is increasingly under surveillance by an unfriendly world?
2. From your perspective, what are the feelings which Christians are feeling today, as they find themselves increasingly under surveillance?
3. Read [James 2:14-16](#). Describe the attitude of one who has an empty, dead faith. What good is faith without deeds?
4. How is dead faith exhibited today? How would you describe your faith?
5. Read [James 2:17-19](#). Is it possible to have faith without deeds? Is it possible to have deeds without faith? What is the difference? Note: The Bible is clear that it is through our faith in what Jesus did for us that we are saved, and not by any deeds we may have done to try to earn salvation (See [Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). In light of this, why are deeds important?
6. How is believing something is true different from putting your faith in something? What does this look like in different areas of your life? Is there evidence that you have put your faith in Christ? How do you follow and trust Him?
7. Read [James 2:20-24](#). How did Abraham show his faith in God? How did Abraham’s actions impact his faith? How did God respond to Abraham? How is Abraham’s relationship with God described?
8. Read [Galatians 2:15-21](#). Verse 20 says that those who have faith in Jesus are justified and Christ lives in them. What does it mean to be justified? If Christ lives in you, why are good deeds inevitable (See also [Galatians 5:6b](#))?
9. Read [James 2:25-26](#). What does Rahab’s example of faith tell us about what God is looking for in people’s lives?
10. What is the relationship between faith and deeds in your life? What does this tell you about your faith? What does this tell you about your relationship with God?
11. James casts doubts on the validity of any faith that is always kept hidden. His argument is that faith that is real will not try to blend in, but will stand out because of its good deeds. What are some ways that Christians today should let their lights shine before men?
12. Share one or two examples of things in your own life that you would never be doing if it weren’t for your faith in Jesus. How might these things impact those who have you “under surveillance?”
13. Discuss some ways that the Lord may be prompting you to personally ramp up the visibility of your faith among your family and friends, at work or in your community. What steps can you take to move in this direction?
14. How does the resource of “Christ in you” (Galatians 2:20) enable you to grow through living what you believe?

PRAYER

- ◆ Ask your community group to pray that you would be mindful of those who are watching and motivated to live out your faith so that they can see it!