

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR JAMES 2:18-26

OPEN IT

- ✚ What is the difference between someone who talks about a problem and someone who does something about the problem?

EXPLORE IT

- ✚ **2:18-26.** What is wrong with having faith without deeds?
- ✚ **2:18.** What two concepts is this speaker contrasting? How would this hypothetical person show other people that he does have genuine faith?
- ✚ **2:19.** What do the demons believe about God? How does it affect them? Why would they respond that way? Why is it possible to know certain facts about God and His works and yet not be saved?
- ✚ **2:20.** Why is faith without works useless (dead)?
- ✚ **2:21.** What actions showed that Abraham had saving faith (Gen. 22:1-18)?
- ✚ **2:22.** Which came first, Abraham's faith or his works (Hebrews 11:17-19). What role did Abraham's works play in relationship to his faith?
- ✚ **2:23.** How does this verse show that James is not contrasting faith and works, but demonstrating that faith can be seen only through works (see Gen. 15:6)? When Abraham acted by faith, how did God respond?
- ✚ **2:24.** How is a person justified before God? What enables us to determine if a person truly believes? When might it be appropriate to examine others' lives this way?
- ✚ **2:25.** What would make you think that Rahab would not be a positive example of faith? How did Rahab show her faith in God? What do you think this might (or could) have cost her?
- ✚ **2:25-26.** Why did Rahab act the way she did? What is the value of the kind of faith that does not produce any works?

GET IT

- ✚ What is one way to tell if a person has a real, genuine faith in God?
- ✚ What is difficult about applying what we hear in church to our daily lives?
- ✚ What are some biblical commands which are hard for you to live out?
- ✚ What motivations do we have to live in obedience to Christ today?
- ✚ Which is easier for you – talking about your faith with others, or demonstrating love toward them? Why is that?
- ✚ In what areas do you want to begin acting more like a Christian?

APPLY IT

- ✚ What actions in my life demonstrate that I have a personal faith in God?
- ✚ "If you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" What evidence would others show the court to convict me?
- ✚ In what general areas of my life do I recognize a need for God's help to begin putting my faith into practice?
- ✚ How can I show greater faith in God by what I do this week?