



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of April 29, 2024

1. Have you ever seen a “fake” or a “knock-off” of a name-brand purse, watch, hat, shoes, sunglasses, jacket, or some other product? What was this fake item, and where did you encounter it? How could you tell that it was not the genuine article?
2. Have someone in your group read James 2:14-26. How would you summarize this section in your own words?
3. What real-world illustration does James use in verses 15-17 to illustrate the massive disconnect that sometimes happens between faith and works? How would you feel if you needed clothes, shoes, or emergency funds—and your church family did nothing tangible to help? What conclusion does James make about this in verse 17?
4. Every Christian has been given a spiritual gift at salvation that allows that individual to make a contribution to the cause of Christ (see 1 Corinthians 12:4-6). But what about “good works”? Are good works only for “some” Christians? What does James say about it in 2:18— is there a hard dividing line between faith and works? (see also Ephesians 2:10 and Titus 3:8)
5. There are millions of people today who claim to believe in God, Jesus, and the Bible. They claim to “know” and they “go” to church. But is intellectual knowledge a legitimate sign of true faith? (see verse 19). Read Matthew 8:28-34 and answer this question: *What accurate, intellectual truths did the demons know about Jesus?*
6. How did Abraham (father of the Jewish nation) demonstrate the vital connection between faith and works? How did Rahab the prostitute demonstrate the vital connection between faith and works? How would you explain the vital connection between faith and works... in your own words?
7. Read **Romans 3:28** by the Apostle Paul. Now read **James 2:24** by Jesus’ brother. How can we be confident that these verses are not *contradictory*-- but *complementary*? How would you explain it to someone? When we examine the life of a true Christian, what connection will be visible between their BELIEFS and BEHAVIORS?
8. You’ve been working with a college-aged girl named Sheila for three years now. Her parents took her occasionally to church as a young person. In conversations with you, she has stated that she understands enough “religion” to get to heaven. How could you help her see the difference between information and transformation?

We are saved by faith alone, but true faith never remains alone.