

## James: More than Words

*A study for Community Groups to use the week of August 31<sup>st</sup>*

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

### Week Four: James 2:14-26

#### Overview

Everyone talks about faith, but what does real faith actually look like? In a world full of noise, opinions, and empty promises, the book of James cuts through the fluff with a bold message: faith isn't just something you say, it's something you live. This series explores how belief in Jesus should shape everyday life, from how we speak, to how we suffer, how we treat others, and how we make decisions. More Than Words is a practical walk through the book of James. It's a call to a faith that shows up, not just on Sundays, but in the moments that matter most.

**Passage: James 2:14-26.** "In his discussion of favoritism James argued for genuineness and warned of superficial self-deception. The larger issue is the whole matter of faith in God. James wrote this section to challenge his readers to examine the vitality of their faith in God. Were they really putting their faith into practice, applying their beliefs to their behavior? This section refers to a believer who is not living by faith. He is not behaving consistently with what he believes." -

*Constable Notes*

#### Questions

\*The questions below are designed to supplement the standard questions that we provide in our Group Discussion Guide; *Who have you had the opportunity to BLESS this week? What does this reveal about God? About People? About the Life He has planned for us?*

1. How does this section connect with the previous section on favoritism? What makes it so easy for us to live by faith, but lack the works that would be in alignment with that faith?
2. In v. 24, it says a "person is justified by works and not by faith alone." How could we understand this in light of other biblical teachings, such as Paul's emphasis on justification by faith?
3. James gives two examples from the Old Testament of this idea of faith in action; Abraham and Rahab. What might be some reasons these two were chosen? What do they have in common? What are their differences? (See *Genesis 22 & Joshua 2* for background)
4. When you think about this season of your life, how might God be inviting you to put your faith into action right where you are? How would that look? What steps would you take this week to do so?