

James Small Group Guide 4

Evidence of True Faith James 2:14–19 (ESV)

¹⁴ *What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?*

¹⁵ *If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!*

True faith is made evident by the fruit in our lives.

Questions for Discussion/Application:

Respond to this statement: It is unloving to question whether someone has genuine biblical faith.

What does your treatment of those in need reveal about your faith?

Given that we have limited time and resources, what is our responsibility to the needy?

Why is it so easy to blur the line between doing a good work as a means to salvation and doing good work as evidence of salvation?

What counsel would you give to a friend who believes the teachings of Scripture but has no spiritual fruit?

What counsel would you give to another believer who has evidence of genuine faith but who never feels like he or she measures up to God’s standard?

How is mere intellectual assent similar to demonic faith?

If God ultimately produces spiritual fruit in our lives, what role do we play in pursuing greater maturity in the Faith?