



James

Part 5 – Having A Living Faith Discussion Guide

The mustard seed is a very, very small seed. Jesus told His disciples that all you need is a little faith, the size of a mustard seed. James says in some translations that we should “have a living faith.” A faith that is living and vibrant also leads to action. Join us this week as we discover how having a real and living faith connects us to God’s purpose for our lives.

Jump Start

1. What is one good thing that is happening in your life right now? What makes it good?
2. Read [James 2:18-19, 2 Corinthians 13:5, John 20:25 and Luke 17:6](#). Do you currently have a living faith? Or is it a dead faith? Do you have doubts? Is that okay?
3. Read [John 3:14-18](#). How does Jesus embody the principle of faith and works in this verse?
4. Read [Matthew 17:20, Hebrews 11:6 and Proverbs 3:5-10](#). Do you ever sense you may be placing more trust in your earthly securities than in God? What does this Scripture teach us about putting our trust in God and not in the worldly things?
5. Read [James 2:22-23, Romans 12:1 and 1 Samuel 15:22](#). Think of a sacrifice you have had to make in your lifetime: effort, money, relationships? Was it worth it in the end? What did you gain?
6. **Final Thought:** How might your intimacy with God increase as you take steps to serve and be a blessing to others?

This week take time to do the “Deeper” section before you meet with your Group.

Deeper

We will learn how to complete a **S O A P Bible Study** by looking at one passage of Scripture and breaking it down. **S O A P** stands for **S**cripture **O**bservation **A**pplication **P**rayer. Let's get ready to sit down with the Bible and see to what God wants to show us. Completing this study during your quiet time, then sharing with your Life Group, can allow for deeper understanding and revelation of new perspectives. **Things you will need:** Bible, Notebook, Pen.

7. **Scripture.** Read [Genesis 22:1-19](#). What stood out to you the most about these verses?

Take time to read the passage and allow God to speak to you. Jot down anything that made you stop and pause or anything that you questioned. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you and write it out fully in your journal.

8. **Observe.** What is God saying to you in this text? What did the whole story teach you? What did that specific verse that you were drawn to teach you?

What do you think God is saying to you, personally and specifically, in this Scripture? (You can even have a short prayer at this point, asking the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you. Remember that He promised to give us wisdom and reveal truth to us when we ask.)

9. **Application.** How will you apply the story of Abraham's sacrifice in your life?

Personalize what you have read by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or corrections in a particular area of your life. Write down how this Scripture applies to you today.

10. **Pray.** Pray about what you have read in Genesis 22:1-19. Pray your special verse back to God, asking Him to help you understand and apply it.

This prayer can be as simple as asking God to help you use this Scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so take time here! Be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out. Journaling your quiet time helps you to see what God is teaching you over time.