

Alive & FREE

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INTRO

Do others know by your actions that you are a professing believer? Why must we be doers of the Word and not hearers only? What do your words reveal about your heart? Do you approach life with a humble spirit? How do you respond when trials come your way? As believers, our lives are to be set apart. The Christian walk should be attractive and contagious so people see the difference Christ makes and want to experience it for themselves. The call upon believers in the Book of James describes a life full of action and virtue.

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NOTES

THINK

1. With Christ in our lives, we are transformed and compelled to action.

READ JAMES 1:19-27.

In your own words, what does it mean to be a hearer of the Word and not a doer?

When have you seen that lived out in your life? Why is it so easy to fall into a pattern of hearing and not doing?

2. Our actions are proof of Christ's work in our lives.

READ JAMES 2:14-26.

What does James say will prove our faith is authentic?

What are some examples of 'good works' that can be done by teenagers?

How does 'faith' without works have a negative impact on the advancement of God's kingdom?

DIAGNOSE

Based on the scale below, how well do you live your life on mission for God? Explain.



Give an example of how your life is a testimony to the forgiveness and freedom that only Jesus can offer.

In what ways is your life living proof that Jesus is real and can change lives?

MOVE

For the next 24 hours, each time you look into a mirror, think back to the point James is making and ask God to show you at least one part of your life that needs work. Ask Him to use His Word, a fellow believer, circumstances, or some other method to speak to you. Honor Him with your willingness to change and to be both a hearer and a doer.

PRAY

As you finish today's session, what areas of your life need to be transformed (speech, thoughts, relationships, and so on)? Write your prayer to Him in the space provided.



DEVOS

THINK

Write a definition of success based on our culture's standards:

READ JAMES 1:19-27.

How do these verses paint a different picture of what "success" looks like?

Many times, our culture teaches that in order to get ahead, we should focus on ourselves and make sure we're taken care of at whatever cost, even at the expense of others. Culture says to do whatever possible to make the most money or get the best job. However, God teaches us the exact opposite. In His Word, He tells us to take care of those who can't take care of themselves and to love others as much as we love ourselves.

How does James describe Scripture in verse 25? Do you tend to think of the commands of the Bible as restrictive or freeing? Explain.

Contrary to what culture may teach us, the "freedoms" offered by the world actually bind us into much turmoil and pain. When we go beyond simply being hearers of the Word and follow through with what it says, we experience the freedom that God's plan offers, and we also show others God's truth by how we live. We have many opportunities to share with others about the freedom we have in Christ.

READ JAMES 2:14-26.

What does James use as an example of works in this passage? Why do you think he chose this example?

What is an example of a person or group of people you could serve in this way where you live?

Why is not just having faith but living out our faith by serving others so important?

By working out our faith or continuing to experience opportunities to serve others, we see God's provision and learn more about His character. Taking on His character grows us more deeply in faith. We can find joy in trials because we know those hardest times will give us more opportunity to grow in our faith. We can also turn our trials and difficult times into something positive by helping others who may go through the same situation.

PRAY

Thank God that He has claimed you as His own. If you have not yet entered into a personal relationship with God through Christ, talk to your youth pastor or Bible study leader today. Ask God for wisdom in the choices you make throughout today. Ask Him to give you a sensitivity and tenderness toward others' needs around you. Ask Him to help you recognize opportunities to act now by loving others well and to grow in your faith today.