

Praise: Start your time in worship together as a family by following the order of service posted by Westview.

Pray: Ask the Lord for his will to be done, both in your life and in this world. Ask Holy Spirit to reveal to you the truth

Review: Last week we spent time in 1 Peter, what did you learn? You were challenged for the week to read all of James, how did that go?

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn-hLHWwRYY>

Questions/Discussion:

What do you think is required for someone to actually be a “Christian?”

- Answers will vary. Use the dry erase board to jot down their answers.

NEXT, read or have a student read James 2:14-18 and ask something like:

- **Does this verse affect your answer? Explain.** Answers will vary.

THEN, read or have a student read Ephesians 2:8-9 and ask something like:

- **Is anyone confused yet? James seems to be saying that faith without works is dead. Paul seems to be arguing that faith and faith alone is what saves us. What do you think is going on here?** Answers will vary.

NEXT, say something like:

- **As usual, if we take a verse out of context, things can get pretty confusing. However, if look at the broader context of the Ephesians passage, we’ll start to see that Paul and James aren’t so different on this issue.**

THEN, broaden the context of the Ephesians passage by reading or having a student read Ephesians 2:8-10. Ask something like:

- **Now that we’ve read a little bit more from Paul, what do you think is going on? What are both authors getting at?**
 - Answers will vary. Both writers are telling us that true faith results in good, loving works.
- **What is the problem with faith that isn’t backed up by any works?**
 - *Answer:* True faith in Christ results in undeniable life change. It results in love and care for others. If that isn’t evident in someone’s life, it’s evidence that Christ hasn’t changed his life. True faith is active.

NEXT, read or have a student read 1 John 3:16-18 and ask something like:

- **What type of love is this passage calling us to?**
 - *Answer:* This passage calls us to a different level of love. It calls us to a love that’s willing to lay down its life for a brother. It calls us to keep our hearts open to those in need.
- **How does this type of love set Christ-followers apart?**
 - *Answer:* This radical, self-sacrificing love should set Christians apart in a world that is primarily concerned with self. This type of love isn’t just reserved for close friends or family, it’s to be freely given to those in need all around us.

Look back at our two main verses by reading or having a student(s) read James 2:14-18 and 1 John 3:16-18.

- **What is the main point that both passages are driving home?**
 - *Answer:* That our actions towards those in need are evidence of our faith, or lack of it.
- **What are some of the ways you could engage the issues of those in need at your school?**
 - Answers will vary. Possible answers could include being friendly with a hurting classmate, inviting the unlovable ones to join your group for lunch, tutoring for free, etc.
- **How can you increase your love towards those in need?**
 - *Answer:* The more we understand how in need we are of a Savior and how much grace we’ve been shown, the more we’ll be willing and able to extend that type of love and grace towards those in need. Our lack of love for those in need is a result of a lack of wonder and awe at what Christ has done for us.

FINALLY, ask students to commit to trusting God and demonstrating that trust with “radical” generosity toward people in need. Ask if anyone wants to share their commitment with the group. Once students have had a chance to respond, ask if anyone has any further thoughts or questions. Then, close your Bible study in prayer.

Conclusion/ Challenge: Take some time in silence to ask Jesus how you can actively live out the love given to you, and journal any thoughts or answers you receive.

Next Sunday we will be looking at the book of Hebrews, It is 13 short chapters which could be complete in 10 minutes a day. Try to read the entire book by next Sunday. Particularly, spend some time reading and reflecting on Hebrews 10.