

GROUP GUIDE James 2:14-19 Sermon 11 24 24

PLAN YOUR GATHERING

Family - Group is a time to build relationships that last, that are trusted. As a leader, take time this week to think through how you will strengthen relationships within your group (Celebrate a birthday, anniversary, serve together, make a charcuterie board, or throw axes).

“What you do is not as important as actually doing it!”

Build group rhythms that your group enjoys where you are actually spending time together doing something everyone loves.

Transformation - Group can be a time, within the context of trusted relationships to deepen our relationship with God and one another by walking with each other in love as we pursue Christ.

Remember, sometimes, group questions can feel like an interjection into the group family. You may find that the group wants to discuss heart issues, concerns, or personal questions, and that is ok!

Once I was told, ***“Change takes courage and community!”***

Without the *“one another”* aspect of the church, we are unable to mature in Christ. So, if group lends itself to questions this week, take time to prepare you mind and your questions before your group gathers.

PLAN YOUR QUESTIONS

As a group leader, you are really facilitating a discussion of self-discovery around God’s word. Asking good questions are key to owning our transformation.

Example Questions:

Group Starter Question: What would be the most helpful topic for us to discuss tonight?

Focus Questions: What do you mean by _____? Or help me understand what you are saying _____?

Deepening Questions: Tell me about what circumstances are contributing to this?

Surfacing Questions: What do you see as your major obstacle right now?

Development Questions: What does this say to you about how God is shaping you right now?

Next Steps: What's one thing you could do today that would move you forward?

Remember, ***“Group leaders are good listeners who learn to ask good questions.”***

Resist answering for your group and learn to ask open-ended questions that spur discussion. Trust the Spirit to lead you, and your group, as you discover God's word, together.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

In preparation for leading discussion, spend some time reading the text and drawing out observations. Ask the Spirit to help you understand and apply the text to your life and the lives of your group members.

Scripture Focus: James 2:14-19

Big Truth: Faith in our hearts is evident in the fruit of our lives

Sermon Points:

1. Faith is not mere intellectual assent.
2. Faith is not simply an emotional response.
3. Faith involves willful obedience.

Personal Reflection Notes (As you read the text, record your Spirit-led promptings here):

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. How would a Christian define biblical faith?
2. Why are faith and works used together as evidence of salvation.
3. Can you describe a scenario where it is difficult to determine if someone is a Christian?
4. Why do James and Jesus use/emphasize “helping the poor” as an example of one's salvation?
5. How is the production of fruit possible in our lives?

6. If God produces spiritual fruit in our lives, what is our role?

PERSONAL TAKEAWAY

Now's the time for action! Be doers of the word, not hearers only. Let's focus on application.

Next Steps Question:

Group, what's one thing we can do differently this week to show God's impartial love in our lives?

Take prayer requests and pray together.