



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM GUIDE

James - Week 7: Faith Works
July 20 - 23, 2023

LEADER NOTES: **Summer trimester:** 6/5-7/30, **Fall trimester:** 8/28-12/10 **New Leader Trainings:** 8/6, 12/10 in person and 8/7, 12/18 on Zoom. **Coach and Leader gathering at Baymeadows on 8/14 and at all other campuses on 8/21. [Click here to RSVP.](#)**

Leader Podcast Now on Spotify: You can listen to every episode of [Leading Well in 7 Minutes or Less on Spotify.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – *What's your next step? Stay informed and connected to ALL the things God is doing in and through The Church of Eleven22 at coe22.com/news.*

Make a difference this Back-to-School season for our local foster care families. Hope's Closet is hosting a "One-Stop-Shop" for local foster care families to shop for back-to-school clothes and get school physicals and haircuts. You and your disciple group can help set up the event on July 29 from 7-9pm at our Hope's Closet Arlington location. [Click here to learn more and sign up to serve.](#)

Serve opportunity at The Retreat Center: Help maintain the property and prepare it for guests. Serve opportunities include: Weekly Housekeeping, Monthly Window & Kitchen Cleaning, General Repair/Upkeep and Golf Course Maintenance. [Click here for more information and to sign up to serve.](#)

THIS WEEK'S READING PLAN: coe22.com/readingplan

Share Wins, Praises and Prayers: Where did you see God move this week?

The Point: When you have been run over by the grace train of the gospel of Jesus Christ, it changes everything about you, especially the way you live your life. Works are the fruit of the changed life; the gospel is the root.

SERMON TEXT: *Genesis 22; Joshua 2; Isaiah 64:6; James 2:14-26; Matthew 7:21-23, Matt 25; John 15:13-17; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2; Philippians 4:18, Hebrews 11:17-19*

Discussion Questions

LEADERS: There is no pressure to get through all the questions; we suggest prayerfully planning your choices for your group. Your leadership of sharing and questioning will determine how deep your group goes with each question.

- **What stood out to you in the sermon this week?**
- **Read James 2:14-26. What did God reveal to you in the scriptures this week, maybe for the first time?**
- **Discover:** James says there is a type of faith that isn't real faith, it's dead. How do you know if you have real faith and where have you seen the biggest change in your life since you met Jesus? *(There's no such thing as real faith without works. Faith always produces fruit and changes you. James isn't pitting faith vs. works. He's pitting real faith vs false or dead faith. The greatest law is to love God and love people. If you don't love people, can the love of God be in you? God doesn't need your good works. People do.)*
Deepen: Pastor Joby pointed out that the order of works and faith matters. Explain what he means. *(Saving and transforming go together and the order matters. Saving always comes before transforming. Acceptance comes before obedience. Our works don't save us, we are saved TO good works. Grace is not anti-effort, it's anti-earning. Works are the symptoms of the gospel infected life.)*
- **James 2:19 says, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!" Pastor Joby explained that a fruitless, fake faith is a demonic faith. Divine faith, saving faith, is a gift from God that leads to a changed life of works and fruit.**
Discover: Share what it means to know Jesus as LORD and as savior. What would a good friend or family member say is a sign of God's Lordship in your life, on a daily basis? *(It means you believe in Jesus for your salvation (it counted for me) and you do what he says (He is your LORD.) When Jesus saves you, he transforms you. You're not perfect now, but you are different. The example of Judas at the last supper can be a gut check for us as believers. Even though Judas did all the "religious" things and witnessed all the miracles of Jesus, he called Jesus 'rabbi,' or teacher, instead of LORD.)*
Deepen: Share the area of your life (work, relationships, etc.) that is the most difficult for you to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to put your faith into action (good works). What makes this difficult for you? *(If you are a believer in Jesus, you're on a journey of progressive sanctification - a process of becoming more like Jesus. We all check the sanctification boxes in a different order and time. It's about progress, not perfection. It's not about judging yourself or others by their works.)*
- **James 2:18 says, "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."**
Discover: How can the same activity please or anger God depending on the motivations? *(As Christians, our hearts can drift toward trying to earn God's favor through performing, rituals and verbal and mental agreement. Faith driven works are a "fragrant offering pleasing to the LORD." See Philippians 4:18. Works driven "righteousness" is fake faith and "like filthy rags" or a "polluted garment." See Isaiah 64:6. It's not the amount of your works, it's your heart behind them that matters to God.)*
Deepen: Share what work God is asking you to step into right now? Is it forgiveness, generosity, sharing your faith, repentance, or something else? What next steps of obedience are you taking in that direction?

ACTION STEP

A Disciple...Loves All People, Discovers Identity in Jesus, Deepens Relationship with Jesus.

Write out your testimony thinking about these three prompts: 1. Your life before Jesus 2. How you surrendered to Jesus 3. Your life in relationship with Jesus

Ask God to reveal to you the things from your past and present that He wants you to share. Use the template provided below to write out your testimony.

YOUR LIFE BEFORE CHRIST

- “Before I surrendered my life to Christ...”
- Think about your attitudes, beliefs, values and actions before you became a Christian.
- Who/what did you worship?
- Be honest, but don’t glorify your past/sin. Remember, He gets the glory for the transformation He’s done in you.

CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING YOUR SURRENDER

- “Then I surrendered my life to Christ...”
- Share how you became aware of your need for Christ.
- How did you receive the gospel?
- Share how you went from knowing about Him to knowing Him personally.

HOW YOUR LIFE IS DIFFERENT SINCE YOUR SURRENDER

- “Now that I have a relationship with Jesus...”
- Explain what a relationship with Him means to you now.
- Compare your beliefs, attitudes, thoughts and actions now to those you had before surrendering to Christ (consider your relationships, work, values, etc.).
- Be honest and open. Your unique testimony can encourage others in their discipleship journey.

Watch this 4-minute video to learn how to create your 15-second testimony.

Additional Resources:

- **RightNow Media:** Find *an unending supply of resources* by signing up for a FREE RightNow Media account. Go to coe22.com/rightnowmedia or text “RightNow” to 441122.
(Note: You'll need to login or create an account to view RightNow Media content.)
- Details on the 10:10 Life are available at coe22.com/1010life.