

SVQ Guide Week 3
James 2:1-26

Scripture, Video, Questions (SVQ)

Session 1 SVQ

- Ready James 2:1-13
- Video Teaching
- Leader Wisdom
- Questions
 - **LEADERS:** There's 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.
 - **Pastor Josh used the example, from a few weeks ago, in reference to Joshua asking the angel of God, "are you a friend or a foe." Are you for us or against us? Is it important to determine if someone has your best interest in mind or no? And be before you say it depends... what does James 2:5 say?** (Jackie Robinson once said, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on others lives. If we go deeper with that, James is giving wisdom on what our baseline in dealing with people is. The ground at the foot of the Cross is level.)
 - **If this dinner table were a picture of your life, who fills the seats?** (2:1-4) Take a moment and write down names. Who do you show favoritism too? Be as honest as possible and share with your group. It's easy for us to allow favoritism to creep into our lives and attitudes without even noticing it. Think about how favoritism can influence your thinking and actions.
 - **According to James 2:5, by what perspective are we to view the "poor" in our world/church/family?** (What makes someone honored, or what makes someone discounted and overlooked?)
 - **When we size people up based on short, tall, bald, rich, poor, brown, black or white, large or small, why do you size them up the way that you do?** (You were taught to. Everyone is born a sinner in that they are born self-reliant instead of God- reliant, born to think of self-first instead of God first. But in regard to judging others based on how they look or our differences, that is tragically a learned behavior.)
 - **How do we unlearn learned behavior?** (Possible Answer: we ask the Holy Spirit to reveal them to us. We do not know what we don't know. Jesus is the only one who can undo our biased and bad thinking and, therefore, behavior.)
 - **James says in verses 12-13, "Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom because judgement without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgement." What does he mean by being judged by the law that gives freedom?** (The law of mercy/grace)
 - **How can we practically apply this principle in our daily lives, especially when dealing with issues of favoritism and prejudice?**

Session 2 SVQ

- Read James 2:14-17
- Video Teaching
- Leader Wisdom
- Questions
 - **LEADERS:** There's 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.
 - **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.)
 - **Pastor Josh and Pastor Rusty pointed out that the order of works and faith matters. Discuss why Faith matters? Explain why works matter? Why does the order matter?** (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 do" good works. Grace is not anti-effort, it's anti-earning. Works are the symptoms of the gospel infected life.)

Session 3 SVQ

- Read James 1:26-27
- Video Teaching
- Leader Wisdom
- Questions
 - **LEADERS:** There's 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.
 - **James 2:19 says, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!"** Pastor Josh explained radical faith and saving faith, is a gift from God that leads to a changed life of works and fruit. In what area of your life are you radical? What area of life do you strive for radical. (Remember that radical is something the bible describes not from this world. We pursue after a God that we attempt to understand/Know daily.)
 - **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.)

- **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.” 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?**