

TO GO

1. Have you ever encountered someone who claimed to believe one thing, but their actions demonstrated something entirely different? How did the lack of congruence contribute to their message?
2. Read James 2:14–16. What example does James give to demonstrate the futility of faith without works? Can you think of how this sometimes happens in our world today? Why is it so easy [and tempting] in our current culture to fake philanthropy?
3. Read James 2:17–19. What additional example does James supply? How do demons demonstrate the disconnect between faith limited to doctrine alone and the more authentic faith that James is championing?
4. Read James 2:20–25. How do James and Paul use the term “justified” differently (James 2:24 and Romans 3:28)? In the end, how do their arguments compliment each other? Why is this such an important distinction to make, especially in our culture here in Central Wisconsin?
5. Read James 2:26. If faith without works is dead, then what are the implications for your life? Take a few moments to examine yourself, and to ask the Lord to reveal any incongruencies between your faith and your works. You might use Psalm 139 as a guide to your prayers.