

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

James 2:14-26

Sunday, February 4, 2018

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What type of love should true faith in Jesus Christ inspire within true believers?

Love for God that inspires a desire and willingness to serve God. Love for others that inspires a desire and willingness to seek the best way to help and bring joy to others, especially our needy brothers and sisters in Christ.

2. According to James, what unreasonable or senseless response does the person who says he has faith, but has no works, give to the hungry person who has no food?

He says to the hungry person with no food, “Go eat your fill” (James 2:16) without doing anything to help him get food to eat.

3. If someone’s faith is nothing more than intellectual belief, how might that make a difference in the way they live? Can you think of some examples?

It may make no real difference. For example, someone may believe there are books in a library, but never go to the library to read a book. Someone may believe that God will forgive sins, but he never repents and asks God to forgive him. Someone may believe that Jesus is Lord, but never seek to discover the will of Jesus as his Lord. Someone may believe that Jesus died on the cross for them, but their belief never leads them to thank God or love Jesus for their unmerited favor in giving them eternal life through faith.

4. Hebrews 11 describes faith: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). What did this assurance and conviction of some of those listed in Hebrews 11 lead them to do?

1. Abel offered to God a better offering (Hebrews 11:4).
2. Abraham obeyed when he was called (Hebrews 11:8).
3. Isaac invoked a blessing for the future of Jacob and Esau (Hebrews 11:20).

5. How is faith brought to completion by actions, deeds, or works?

Faith is brought to completion by works by believing God exists, by believing in God, by believing God, by doing what God says we need to do, by obeying God because we love God, by allowing the love of God to fill our hearts, and by expressing God’s love to others in wise and practical ways.

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