



MAIN POINT	MAIN BIBLE VERSE
Real faith produces real action.	James 2:14-26
Students will understand that real faith isn't just something we say we believe—it shows up in what we do.	
Teaching Script / Guide	

HOOK

- Start with a question and example something like this (feel free to change it to fit your personality and audience):
 - What if I told you I was the biggest basketball fan in the world...
 - But I never watched games
 - Couldn't name any of the players
 - Never wore a jersey
 - Didn't like talking about it
 - Never played basketball?
 - Would you believe me? Probably not. Why?
 - Because when something matters to you, it shows. It's expressed through your life.
- What we're going to see today in James is that faith is the same way.

BIBLE:

- *Either read, summarize, or invite a student to come up and read James 2:1-13. The emphasis and main point of teaching will be James 2:17.*
 - *"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."*
- James is not saying that we earn God's love by doing good things.
 - He is teaching that if our faith is real, it changes how we live.
- He even gives an example:
 - If someone says, "I hope you stay warm" or "I hope you get food," but does nothing to help, James says that's not real faith, because real faith helps. Real faith has action.
- Faith isn't just something you believe in your head. Faith changes how you live with your hands.
- Real faith looks like:
 - Helping someone who's hurting because you genuinely believe Jesus' command to serve the poor
 - Encouraging someone who's down because you genuinely believe that our words matter as much as Jesus said they do.
 - Including someone who's alone because you want to reflect the love of Christ that we claim we have received.
 - Doing the right thing even when it's hard because we take the teachings of Jesus seriously.
- James gives two examples: Abraham and Rahab. And he highlights them because their actions were evidence of their belief.
 - Their faith showed up in their choices because that's what real faith does.

ILLUSTRATION MOMENT:

- For example, imagine someone says, “I trust my parachute”, but when it’s time to jump, they refuse. Do they actually trust the parachute? No, because real faith encourages us to make the jump.

APPLICATION:

- Real faith shows up in everyday life.
- It shows up when you:
 - Help instead of ignoring
 - Build up instead of tear down
 - Tell the truth instead of lying
- **Faith doesn’t fit in a church box on Sundays.**
 - **It’s something you live at school**
 - **It’s something you do at home.**
 - **It’s something to live with your friends.**

GOSPEL MOMENT/CLOSE:

- We don’t do good things, so God will love us. God already loves us.
 - We do good things because He first loved us, and now our lives are a gracious response.
 - Good actions don’t create faith. They reveal faith. They reveal trust that we believe that God’s way is best.
 - This series is called Inside Out because when Jesus changes your heart on the inside, your life starts to change on the outside.
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