

# Living Whole in a Fractured World: A Letter from James "Whole People Express Faith Through Works"

October 9-10, 2021

This provides about one hour of focused reading and discussion. Use the portions you find most helpful.

Open with 7-minute **video clip**, F. Chan, **The Book of James 2:14-26** (RightNowMedia).

1. Let's be people who allow God's word to **confront** us - James is **blunt**.
  - Read **James 1:22-25, James 2:14, Luke 6:46-49, 2 Timothy 4:2-4, Ephesians 2:8-10, and Revelation 3:15-16**. How do you respond when you reflect on these verses, especially when James confronts the kind of faith that makes no difference?
2. Let's be people who give ourselves to **listening** to and **looking at** God's Word.
  - Read James **1:22** and **25** again, along with **Romans 2:13**. How are we deceiving ourselves if we just listen to God's Word?
  - Read **Romans 8:2**. How has following God's "law of freedom" affected your own life?
3. Let's be people who know that **disobedience** leads to self-**deception**.
  - Read **James 1:22** and **24**. How well do I recognize my own need to change? How does reading God's word impact that process?
4. Freedom comes from **remembering** and walking in **faithfulness**.
  - Read **James 1:25, James 2:21-26, Genesis 15:6, and Genesis 22:1-3**. How does Abraham's example prove that "faith without works is useless"?
  - Why do you think James mentions Rahab, a prostitute, as an example of good works?
5. Works are about practical **care** and not just personal **morality**.
  - "Faith always has a social component and affects our relationship with others," according to Jeff Lucas. Read **James 2:15-26, Luke 3:8-11, 1 John 3:16-19, Deuteronomy 15:7-8, Proverbs 19:17, and Micah 6:8**. Discuss what stands out about these passages.

Close with a theme-related **song**:

**"How Beautiful"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVu5VZsCNOI>

If you have a prayer need, ask a friend or two here to pray with you, and to support you in prayer this week.