



Sermon Discussion Guide

Real Faith - Tim Knipp

April 3, 2022

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
- Is there something that you have fought for? Have wounds for or have risked for? It may not be physical wounds!
- What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "faith and works?" Personal history, mental struggle, freedom? Discuss where you've found tension or relief in those words.

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- Take time to re-read James 2: 14-26
- Discuss and identify all the examples James gives for what real faith is.
- Verses 18-19 are hard to sit with. Reread these two verses specifically and talk about head belief ("even the demons believe that and shudder") vs. life trust
- Other than the "heroes of the faith" chapter in Hebrews, who are others, like Abraham and Rahab (very different examples) who have shown that out of life trust and saving faith comes an active life.

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
- Tim spoke about head belief as just belief in God without any outflowing of his grace to others. What are some examples in our world today?
- What's the church's role in this call to faith and action? What action can we take in our community, in your community, to live out the joy of knowing Christ?



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- Reread the passage one more time. In light of these words, what should Christian community look like? What changes might need to be made?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- What act of trust might you need to take this next week?
 - What steps do you need to take to get there?
 - Are there roadblocks? Fears? Preparations to be made?
 - How can your community, your small group, your friends support you in this?
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Time of Prayer