

“The Life We Lead”
FSM James Curriculum

We’ve all heard the old saying, “actions speak louder than words.” I’m sure it’s been used against us all at times, calling out the inconsistencies between the way we act and the words we speak. At best the saying is used to challenge us to live a life that aligns with our words, and it derives directly from the word of God. No one is going to challenge us more than the Lord Himself.

When you think back on the scripture that we studied last week, what are areas that you see people’s words and lives not aligning?

*Leader Tip: This is an icebreaker so this can be super shallow or deep, just a question to get groups talking.

When you see someone who’s life doesn’t match their words what does that make you think of them? How does that affect your trust or respect for them?

Read James 1:22-25

1. What does it mean to be a hearer of the word?
2. What does it mean to be a doer of the word?
3. Why do you think it is so important to the Lord that we not only hear the word but “do” the word as well?
4. What is one command from the word of God that you struggle to live out? What is one that you feel you have an easy time living out?
5. What needs to change in your life in order for you to be a doer and not just a hearer? What is holding you back?

*Leader Tip: This is a great time to talk about how our actions cannot change until our hearts have changed. Often our actions don’t reflect Christ because we are not living in Him.

Read James 2:8-26

1. Have someone summarize these verses.
2. What are some real world examples of loving your neighbor as yourself?
3. Why can we not separate our works and our faith? What does it mean to have a balance of both?

4. Do you think that you are more prone to rely on your words or your actions? Why?

*Leader Tip: getting at the idea that we all either abuse grace and live by our words, or we try to earn our salvation and live by our actions. Both are out of balance with what the Lord desires.

Closing: Ultimately the only way we will walk in balance is if our hearts are captured by Christ. Usually if we are out of balance it is because we are not seeing the Lord for who He is really is and therefore are living wrongly. Take some time to pray that your hearts would be captured by Christ that you may walk in Him through your words and your deeds. Everything we do flows from our hearts, and that is where true transformation happens.