

1. Brainstorm in your group to see what springs to mind when you think about faith.

Read **James chapter 2:14- 26**. What light does this shed on what faith actually is and what it definitely isn't?

2. Read **verses 15 & 16**. What does it look like to claim to have faith?

Why do you think James is so insistent that real faith will produce action?

Read **Galatians 2:15- 16** and **3:6- 9**. How is it that James says it is necessary to have works along with faith, but Paul is adamant that faith alone is necessary?

3. What was Paul's motivation for writing this to the Galatians? What was his overall message?

Why does Paul use Abraham as an example of a great man of faith?

4. What was James' motivation for writing his letter? What is his overall message?

Why does James use Abraham as an example of a great man of action?

Do James and Paul really have a conflicting message?

- Split into two groups and read through the book of James taking note of example where he mentions faith and where he mentions our actions

faith	actions

Look at the two lists and spot if there are any similarities or anything that made both lists.

- Why is it so important to James for us to be active in our faith?  
 Can **Matthew 5:13- 16** shed any light on the subject?

Jesus sets out in the beatitudes that if we get our mindset right, then the product of that will be good works, and James echoes his brother's teaching to the people he is writing his letter to.

**APPLY.**

Commit **James 1:22** to memory to help you to remember that acting on what the word of God says to us is vitally important.

What have been the main challenges or encouragements for you during the last two semesters? How have you acted on them? What were the outcomes? Is the more action you need to take in faith?

Share with each other to encourage each other in your victories and hold each other accountable to have faith to act.