TRUE OR FALSE FAITH DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JAMES 2:14-26

1	At the center of this week's text (James 2:14-26) is this question: "What is genuine saving faith?" Jesus spoke some of the most frightening words in the Bible when He said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness." (Matt. 7:21-23) So it is vital—both for our own salvation and for those with whom we share the gospel—to be clear on this crucial matter. Take some time to think through these two questions before continuing with the study.
	₩hat is genuine saving faith?
	What is false faith that does not save?
2	If you have genuine saving faith, what is true about your life today, according to James 2:18? Look through these other scripture texts and list evidences of saving faith: 2 Corinthians 5:17, John 8:47, 1 John 3:14, Romans 8:14, 1 John 3:3, Ephesians 2:10, Hebrews 12:6-8.
3	False Faith is deceiving. There are religious people who are dead-on convinced they have real salvation. But we must remember who is at the center of false faith—the master deceiver, the Father of Lies. If Satan can get someone to think that he will get into heaven because of his many good deeds, apart from faith in Christ, he is perfectly content to watch that person devote his entire life to good deeds. Or, if a person who was born and raised in the church thinks, "I'm going to heaven because I believe in Jesus as my Savior"—but, his faith is merely intellectual and it doesn't affect his daily life—Satan is happy with such false "faith."
	What are some questions you should ask yourself or others in your religious circle as tests of the genuineness of your faith?

4	There are four case studies in James 2:14-26. Take each one and consider how it describes either genuine	or false faith.
	Religious people who refuse to help the needy:	
	Rahab	
	Demons	
	Abraham	
	"Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove Isn't it obvious that faith and works are self in works? The very moment you separate body and spirit, you end up with a corpse. Separate faith a corpse." (the Message, a paraphrase of James 2:18, 22, 26)	and works and you get the same thing:
		PRAYER REQUESTS
	Pescribe the life of α "faith-only" corpse:	
	♥ Describe the life of a "works-only" corpse:	
	Do you, by character, have a tender conscience or a complacent one? How has that influenced your reaction to the Scripture we have been studying? Do you need to speak to someone about your own faith? When will you do this: are you ready to listen?	