



## DIGGING DEEPER

Our Scripture study today comes from a letter written by James, Jesus' brother, to first-century Jewish Christians living in Gentile communities. The main purpose of his letter was to expose hypocritical practices and teach authentic Christian behavior. James is writing to instruct his readers in the basics of Christian faith – to explain what it means to be a responsible Christian.

**Before reading the Scripture:** In what ways do you think that we have certain responsibilities as Christians? To whom are we responsible?

### Read James 2:14-26

1. James speaks of a person having faith without deeds and asks, "Can such faith save him?" Can it?
2. What does James' example in verses 15-16 tell us about our responsibilities as Christians?
3. Brainstorm a few more examples of the situation described in verses 15-16. How do we demonstrate our faith in these situations?
4. Compare James 2:18 with Romans 3:28 where Paul writes, "...man is justified by faith apart from observing the law." How can both statements be true?
5. How does James help us understand that faith without deeds is useless?
6. In what ways do you show that you have faith?
7. How would you explain to someone else the connection between your deeds and your faith, while making sure they understand that their salvation is through faith alone?

## LIFE CHECK

1. Where did you see God at work in your life this week? Consider the following questions as you think about God working in your spiritual, home, work and social life.

How were you blessed this week?

Did God prompt you to bless someone this week? How did they respond?

How has God answered prayer?

Did you seek God's will and obey?

Did God speak to you through Scripture, a person, or in some other way? What happened?

How did God work in and through you to share your faith this week through words and/or actions?

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2. What action might you take this week to draw closer to God and see Him at work in your life?

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### PRAY

Lord, thank you for all that you have done here at St. Philip's to impact the world for Christ. Lead us in the process of calling our next Rector and raise up a faithful leader to care for your people and grow our ministries. Amen.