

A photograph of a person wearing a white protective suit, standing in a room. The background features a large, abstract painting on a wall, characterized by dark, expressive brushstrokes in shades of blue and black. The floor is covered with crumpled, light-colored paper. The overall scene suggests a laboratory or a controlled environment where the person is engaged in a task, possibly related to the 'MOVEMENT' theme.

M O V E M E N T

READING PLAN

Week Two

J A M E S

TWO

¹ My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

¹² Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

²⁵ In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.



W E E K T W O

W E E K T W O

Read all of chapter 2 every day focusing on the highlighted scripture for each day of the week.

MONDAY JAMES 2:1-7

1. Have you ever been excluded? Has anyone ever felt excluded by you? How did those two things make you feel?
2. What are some examples of favoritism you notice in the world today? The Church? Yourself?
3. Why is favoritism so dishonoring to the Lord?

TUESDAY JAMES 2:8-13

1. Culture tends to show favoritism to the rich. How can you counteract that temptation by practicing the "royal law" (2:8) to love your neighbor as yourself?
2. Do you have any relationships that are suffering from a lack of mercy? Is there anyone you need to seek mercy from or grant mercy to?

WEDNESDAY JAMES 2:14-17

1. James makes it clear that Christianity is active (2:14). Reflect on what your daily walk with Jesus is like. How do others see your faith in action?

THURSDAY

JAMES 2:18-19

1. Jesus is clear that salvation comes by grace through faith in Christ, alone. In light of the gospel, how do you understand what James is saying in verses 17 and 18?
2. James teaches that our actions are a reflection of our faith in Christ. What are some areas you desire to grow in as someone whose faith is marked by action?

FRIDAY

JAMES 2:20-26

1. James gives the examples of Abraham and Rahab as people whose faith was marked by action. Think of someone in your life whose faith is marked by action. What impact has that made on your walk with Jesus?
2. Take some time to reflect on the analogy James uses in 2:26. What conclusion can you draw about faith and works based on the body and spirit?

C H A L L E N G E

"YOU BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ONE GOD. GOOD! EVEN THE DEMONS BELIEVE THAT AND SHUDDER."

Memorize James 2:19 and share with one other person.