**The Study of James: Contend for the Faith**

**James on Salvation by Works - James 2:14-26**

**The Context of James' Works Salvation.**

1. **Be doers of the word, not just hears**. (James 1:22-25)
2. **True religion is caring for the most vulnerable in society**. (James 1:26-27)
3. **True religion is a behavior change.** (James 1:27)
4. **A doer of the word will show no partiality**. (James 2:1)
5. **A doer of the word will follow the Law of Liberty and love his neighbor**. (James 2:2-7)
6. **He who fails in one aspect of the Law of Liberty will be judged harshly**. (James 2:8-11)
7. **The only way to be saved from this judgment is to show mercy**. (James 3:12-13)

**Faith without Works is Dead.**

1. **Faith alone cannot save a person.**

*"14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?* (James 2:14)

1. **Faith without works is dead.**

*"15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."* (James 2:14–17)

1. **Hypothetical objector: Faith and works are unrelated.**

*"18 But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works…'"* (James 2:18a)

1. **James's first response to the objector: Faith will inevitably produce works.**

*"…Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe and shudder! 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?"* (James 2:18b-20)

1. **James' second response to the objector: Abraham was justified by works**.

*"21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness' and he was called a friend of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone."* (James 2:21–24)

1. **James' third response to the objector: Rahab was justified by works.**

*"25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead."* (James 2:25-26)

**Discussion Questions:**

1. In what sense does James state that salvation is by works?
2. Discuss with your group the tree responses to James to the hypothetical objector.
3. Because James' point is to avoid judgment by keeping the Law of Liberty, write down your step-by-step plan to reach the vulnerable in your world as a group.