


HILLSIDE STUDENTS


Listening & Doing

CONNECT

 Set out snacks! Add new students to the groups app! Take Attendance!

 Play **LEVELS!** Levels is a rock, paper, scissors game where everyone in the group starts on level 0. Then, everyone will play one round of the game. Whoever wins moves up to the next level and whoever loses moves down one level. If you are 0 when you lose, you just stay at 0. The first person to reach level 10 wins!

WATCH

 **Set up Discussion:** Reading what scripture says really matters! However, if we *only* read the words on the page and don't live in obedience to God's truth...we miss out. What is the danger in not living out of faith? And what can freedom do we find when let our faith inspire action? Let's talk about it!

 **Pre-Video Question:** Have your group answer one or both questions below!

- What's a made-up holiday you would love to celebrate every year?
- If you had to replace your laugh with any other sound, what sound would you pick?

READ + DISCUSS

Split up into smaller groups and navigate the discussion below:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- **Read James 2:14.** Do you think someone you just met would know that you are a Christian? Why or why not?
- **Read James 2:15-17.** What do your actions tell people about your faith?
- **Read Ephesians 2:8-9.** Why is good news that grace is a free gift from God?
- How does grace lead to faith? And how does faith lead to us doing good works?
- **Read James 1:22-25.** According to this verse, who misses out when you don't obey the Word? What happens when we do obey the Word?
- **Read Mark 8:34.** How can we encourage each other to follow Jesus with our actions this week?
- What is one thing scripture tells us to do that you want to practice doing this week?

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Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us that *“it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”* While James 2:17 tells us, *“faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”*

Many people find tension between these two verses and assume they are opposing truths. However, a life of following Jesus and studying the Word will quickly display how faith and works complement each other beautifully! Faith without works can be lackluster and boring. Works without faith are missing eternal purpose and the power to save.

Our faith in Jesus should inspire us to do good work for His Kingdom. Working in His Kingdom continually strengthens our faith. Our works would NEVER be enough to save us from our sin, so we should continue to praise God for demonstrating *“his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5:8)

This week – help your students navigate any questions they have between faith and works. While that’s not the *main* focus of this week, it is a question many people wrestle with!

Spend some time helping them get practical with obeying scripture as well. Here are some practical applications you could suggest: honoring parents, being slow to anger, loving your neighbor, taking every thought captive, trusting in God.

Read James 2:14 *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?*

Read James 2:15-17 *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.*

Read Ephesians 2:8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Read James 1:22-25 *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do..*

Read Mark 8:34 *Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*