



**February 7**  
**Zach Kreeger**

**PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:**

James 2: 14-19, Mark 10:17-22, Ephesians 2:8-10

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Who are people in your life who you see as role models in how they not only have faith and works but seem to regularly be growing in their understanding and practice of both? Tell stories!
2. Zach presented the idea of a 'line in the sand' vs. the target with a bullseye. How have you been raised to think about faith? More of the line or the target? Draw a target in your mind/in your journal. Make a dot of where you are as well as an arrow that shows which direction your moving... in... out... circling... etc...) Talk about where you 'locate yourself.' If helpful, do one for faith and another target for works. The goal is that they would be aligned, but to see God's invitation in your life, you can see it clearly if you do two!
3. It seems that faith and works are held in equal weight to each other as we grow. Like in the story of the rich young ruler, he called the young man deeper in both his faith and his works only to find that his faith wasn't ready yet. Do you feel like he's inviting you deeper in your faith, in your works, or both right now? What does it look like? To think about it a different way, when you look back on this season of COVID, which has felt like it's suffered more? Your works or your faith?
4. Our sermon series is going through the book of James front to back. Our sermon this week was the middle to end of Chapter 2. Read out loud as a group James 1:1-the end of chapter 2 and stop at each idea that James brings up. If this is a true Chiasm, every point James is making on the way to the end of Chapter 2 has everything to do with his point that faith without works isn't real. If you look at the beginning of the chapter through that lens, does it come to life a bit more? (i.e. consider it joy when you suffer... how does that show faith and works dancing together?)
5. Who is your 'who?' James mentioned particular groups of people (the poor... the needy... the widow/orphan/alien) as the places where we can work out our 'works.' Who is your who? Who do you regularly help and seek out? Is there an invitation to seek them out more?
6. Zach shared the quote, "When we remember where we came from, we notice the alien, the orphan and the widow. When we take care of the alien, the orphan, and the widow, we are reminded of where we came from." This grows in the heart of our faith. Who were you before Jesus? How did your life change when he met you? Why would this grow your compassion not simply for people in general, but specifically for these three groups of people: immigrants/minorities, orphans and widows?