

Wednesday

Read James 2:1–9. Focus on verse 8. How can you show your faith through loving deeds this week? Here are some suggestions. Choose something from this list, or one of your own ideas, and make plans today.

- Help a single parent in need with car repairs, child care, etc. In our **Moms' Angels** program, volunteer car mechanics help others with repairs.
- Provide meals to a needy family. You can help out through our **People's Pantry** program by donating to the barrels, or helping on Wednesdays. Our **Sonshine Ministry** brings home-cooked meals to families in need.
- Support TLC members George and Lyn Pielenz at their ministries, **Pajaro Rescue Mission** and **Freedom Women's Center**.

For information on any of these ministries, email info@tlc.org or call us.

Ask God to help you see today whenever you can do a loving deed for someone.

Thursday

Please read James 2:14–19. What do you think James is trying to tell us in this passage?

You've probably heard this question before, but if you were on trial for being a Christian, what evidence would there be to convict you?

Thank God today for the free gift of salvation He has given you. Talk to Him about the struggles you have living out your faith.

Friday

Please read James 2:20–26. Abraham and Rahab are used as examples of people who deeds proved their faith. It's important to note that James is NOT saying you need to be perfect to be saved. Both Abraham and Rahab had major character flaws: one was a prostitute, and the other told some huge lies that nearly got him killed. God's grace covers our sins when we trust in Him.

Spend some extra time in prayer today thanking God for His grace. Pray that God will work through you and give you the power to live your faith in consistent and authentic ways.

Saturday

Please go over any devotions may have missed and polish up your memory verse. Please pray for this weekend's service. Pray that your heart will be ready to learn and grow!



Living Authentically

René Schlaepfer
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This weekend we start a series in James, all about getting authentic faith.

Who Wrote It?

James the _____

- Part of Jesus' family (*Matthew 13:55–56; Mark 6:3*)
- Unbeliever during Jesus' ministry (*Mark 3:31–35; John 7:1–5*)
- Yet... with disciples after Christ's death (*Acts 1:14*) *Why? (1 Corinthians 15:7)*
- Calming influence when church was almost torn apart (*Acts 15*)

Why Was It Written?

James sees the early Christians slipping into dry, empty, inauthentic religion.

Key Verses:

"Do not merely _____ to the word, and so deceive yourselves. _____ what it says." *James 1:22 (NLT)*

"... **faith** without deeds is **dead**." *James 2:26b*

Who is Right, James or Paul?

	PAUL	JAMES
ISSUE:	Legalism	_____
"WORKS"=	Religious ritual	_____

James and Paul agree...

Paul: "...God decided in advance to **adopt** us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ..." *Ephesians 1:5a (NLT)*

James: "In His goodness He **chose** to make us His own children by **giving** us His one true word. And we, out of all creation, became His **choice** possession." *James 1:18 (NLT)*

Five Keys to Authenticity

Outline adapted from commentary in Warren, *Developing a Faith That Works* (2002), p. 54

1. Authentic faith is not just something I _____

"Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does." *James 1:23–25*

2. Authentic faith is not just something I _____

"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?" *James 2:14*

3. Authentic faith is not just something I _____

"Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?" *James 2:15–16*

4. Authentic faith is not just something I _____

"You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that— and shudder." *James 2:19*

5. Authentic faith is something I _____

James gives two examples:

- Abraham (*vs. 2:20–24*)
- Rahab (*vs. 2:25*)

My faith is not _____ by what I do;
it is _____ by what I do

The bottom line:

"If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing right." *James 2:8 [See 1 Corinthians 13:2b]*

I show my faith when I show my _____ to others

Monday

Please read James 1:22–25. What seems to be James' primary point in this passage? In what way is the Bible like a mirror?

Recall a time when you chose not to apply something you read in Scripture. Why did you make that choice?

Sometimes the problem lies in how we read the Bible. You maybe using an outdated translation that's hard to understand, or you may have a lot of distractions when you read.

Here are some tips to help you when you read the Bible:

- Get a modern translation, like the NLT or NIV. We have some for you at church.
- Read the passage aloud to yourself with expression.
- When a verse has a command, think of way you can put that command into action that same day.
- Memorize at least a verse a week.

Thank God for the opportunity to study His word and have it be a mirror to your soul. Ask God to help you apply what you read.

Tuesday

Please read James 1:26–27. What things does an authentic Christian do, according to these verses?

Think back over the last few days. How could you have kept a better rein on your tongue?

What are some practical ways you could look after needy people this week?

Spend some time in prayer today and ask God to show you in what way you are being polluted by the world. Talk to Him about your struggles when it comes to showing mercy in your speech and in your actions. Ask Him for opportunities to grow and mature in these areas.



Memory Verse

"If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing right."
James 2:8 (NIV)