



AWAKEN TO ACTION

April 25 | Discussion Guide

(~90 minutes needed)

Begin with Scripture, silence + prayer (5-10 minutes)

Read Psalm 15:1-5 to begin your time together. *This week's topic is "Awaken to Action" so the purpose of this reading is to help us take the same perspective of the Psalmist who sees living rightly as an integral part of worshipping the living God.*

When you're finished reading, have folks share which phrase most resonates with them and why from this Psalm.

Finally, after a few moments of conversation, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together.

Recap from last week as a large group (5 minutes)

Spend some time talking about what resonated with you from your devotions this past week.

- What stood out to you?
- How did these devotions deepen your faith in God?
- How were you challenged to grow in maturity?

To get the most out of this series, we are encouraging each person to do the daily devotions found in the James book, to engage with the sermon each week, and to come prepared for group time with thoughts, reflections, and prayerful considerations.

The goal is to meet God in His Word, to get the Scriptures to soak into the core of who we are, and then to metabolize the words of God into acts of love in whatever scenario we find ourselves.

Split into smaller co-ed groups for Scripture and a debrief of the sermon (30-40 minutes). *There are several questions here, pick some out that you think your group needs to talk through. Also note that if you attend our Franklin Road campus, Chad Monahan preached. If you were at our Shelby Street campus, Eric Denney preached. Some of the questions will reflect this.*

- What resonated with you from this week's sermon? What challenged you?
- **Read James 1:19-2:26.** What is James saying in these verses? What is he calling us to do?
- On a scale of 1-10, how would you say you're doing at living out your faith? Why that number?

- In the message, Chad and Eric talked about the difference between an active faith and a dead faith - a faith that works vs. a faith that doesn't. What do you think the difference is between the two? How does James define an active and alive faith? If someone looked at your life, would they say your faith is alive or dead? Explain.
- "Faith is more than what we say, more than what we feel, more than what we think, and even more than what we believe," we heard Eric and Chad say. Which of these do you think you tend to associate more when you think about how you define "faith"? Do you lean more towards the thinking side of faith? The feeling side? Why? Which area do you need to grow more in?
- Why is action an important part of one's faith being "alive" or "real?"
- In what ways does real faith lead to real action? How does what we *do* impact how we live? What does *how we live* say about what we *actually* believe?
- In **James 2**, why do you think James uses both Abraham and Rahab as examples of the faith? Who in your life lives out their faith really well? What can you learn from their example?
- Chad said, "Faith is always found on the heels of obedience." What did he mean by this? Do you agree or disagree? How does this relate to what James says? Explain.
- **Read additional passages like John 13:1-17; Romans 12:1; Matthew 25:31-46** and talk about how these verses relate to what James writes.
- As Chad and Eric asked *us*, now we ask one another: What is your next move towards an active faith? What is God calling you towards?

Transition back to one large group for recap (5-10 minutes)

- What were some things that came of your individual group discussions? Have each smaller group share something that stood out from their discussions.

Transition to smaller same-gender groups for accountability (10-20 minutes) *Ask some of the questions below to hold one another accountable. Don't feel like you have to use this list like a checklist. If needed, feel free to stop, dive deeper, and pray over one another.*

- Since this week's topic is awakening to action, in what ways have you served others this past week? In what ways can you serve your spouse, your roommates, your kids, or your friends this upcoming week?
- What has prayer time been like for you this week?
- What has your time in Scripture been like this week?
- In what ways have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- How can we pray for you?

Spend some time in prayer for one another.

Finish with intercessory prayer in your split groups (10 minutes)

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.