

Christ Community Church

Community Group Discussion Guide for Week of January 4, 2026

Announcements

1. **Community Group:** Any specific announcements or things to discuss pertaining to your community group?
2. **Upcoming Christ Community Gatherings:** Spark-a-Friendship at Catch-a-Fire on 1/11 (Lunch After Church) — Men's Meetup at Fretboard on 1/15 from 7:30 to 9:00 PM — Women's Meetup at Hoppin' Vines on 1/29 from 7:30 to 9:00 PM.
3. **Celebration Sunday & Chili Cook Off:** Our Celebration Sunday is being postponed and will now be combined with our Chili Cook-Off on February 15, so go ahead and save the date, and we're looking forward to celebrating together then.
4. **The Gospel Coalition's 2026 Women's Conference:** Join the women of Christ Community Church for TCG's Women's Conference in Indy from June 11 to 13 for a time of worship, teaching, and connection. For registration and more information, visit www.christcincy.org/events.

Opening Question

What's a favorite comfort food, show, or activity when you need to unwind?

James 2:14-26

Leader's Note: Open with a brief prayer, asking God to make the group receptive to His Word. Then invite someone to read the passage aloud. (For longer sections, consider dividing the reading among several people.)

[14] What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? [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.

[18] But someone will say, "You have faith and I have 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? [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. [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.

Discussion Questions

1. In verse 14, James asks, “What good is it if someone says he has faith but does not have works?” What do you think James is inviting his readers to examine about their faith with this question?
⇒ *Potential Follow-Up Question(s): Why do you think an unexamined—or disconnected—faith can be spiritually dangerous, or at least incomplete?*
2. In verses 15 to 17, James gives the example of offering words without compassion. What does this teach us about the connection between genuine faith and love for others?
⇒ *Potential Follow-Up Question(s): What are some examples from the life and ministry of Jesus where He demonstrates compassion in tangible, practical ways? In your own life, how have you seen the compassion of Jesus embodied through the actions of others, and what impact did this have on you?*
3. In verses 18 to 19, James makes the striking statement that “even the demons believe—and shudder.” What do you think is the difference between recognizing truths about God and actually receiving God in faith?
⇒ *Potential Follow-Up Question(s): What are some examples from your own life when a truth or promise from God’s Word moved from something you simply knew in your head to something you truly relied on in your heart—and then began to shape how you lived?*
4. In verses 20 to 24, James points to Abraham as an example of living faith. Based on what you know of Abraham’s story, how does his life demonstrate devotion through trust-filled obedience? In what ways do you also see his faith growing or maturing over time?
⇒ *Potential Follow-Up Question(s): In this season of life, where might obedience to God require trust before clarity for you?*
5. In verses 25–26, James points to Rahab as a second example of living faith. From what you know of Rahab’s story, what does her faith teach us about allegiance, the authenticity of faith, and the cost of devotion?
⇒ *Potential Follow-Up Question(s): Where might God be inviting you to demonstrate visible allegiance to Him, even when it feels risky or costly?*

Prayer

Leader's Note: Wrap up your time by moving into prayer. Begin by inviting group members to share any requests, especially in light of the categories listed below. When someone shares, ask if another person would be willing to pray for that request. Then open the group prayer time by asking someone to start and encourage others to pray as they feel led. When it seems like the time is drawing to a close, finish by thanking God for His Word and for the time you've had together.

- **Word – Praying in Response to God's Word**

What truths or applications stood out from our discussion, and how can we pray for one another in light of what God has shown us through His Word?

- **Heart – Praying for “Heart-Level” Concerns**

Because real change begins in the heart, how can we pray for one another where trusting God feels hard or where walking closely with Him is a struggle?

- **Life – Praying for Personal Requests**

What personal needs, burdens, or situations would you like prayer for this week?

- **Church – Praying for Our Church and Its Mission**

What are some things happening in our church and through our church that we can be praying for together?

- **World – Praying for People You're Minister To and Those in Need**

Who in your life doesn't yet know Jesus, and how can we pray for them—and for your opportunities to love and share the gospel with them? Who in your life is in need of prayer, encouragement, or care, and how can we lift them up together this week?