



SCRIPTURE: James 1:26-27

SERIES: The Book of James

TITLE: The Measure of Genuine Faith

BIG IDEA: Genuine faith is measured by speech, compassion in action, and by what shapes it.

TEXT

James 1:26-27

²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

SWARTZ FBC LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE



²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

1. Genuine Faith Is Measured by How We Speak.

Application Question: What do your words say about your faith?

- How have words hurt you in the past?
- How have words healed you in the past?
- How have the words that have hurt/healed you affected how you speak?
- Why is this such an accurate barometer for the genuineness of our faith?
- What does unbridled speech reveal about a person?
- Do you see bridled speech as a hallmark of mature Christians?

²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction,

2. Genuine Faith Is Measured by How It Benefits the Vulnerable.

Application Question: Is your faith benefiting others?

- Are there visible ways that your faith benefits others?
- Why is visible faith so important?
- How does this speak to the maturity of a believer?
- What examples do we have of visible faith and serving others in the church, in our community, and in our homes?

and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

3. Genuine Faith Is Measured by What Shapes It.

Application Question: Who is shaping you?

- What does it mean to be shaped by the world?
- How do we balance being in the world but not of the world?
- How do we balance not being influenced by the world yet seeing the people in the world as our mission field and not our enemy?
- How is a person shaped by something other than the world?