



/add-verbs/

Add Verbs questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group.

In the Bible, “Christian” is a noun, and nouns need verbs. To be authentically Christian you must **ADD VERBS** to your faith. Let’s search for verbs to add to our faith, starting in the book of James.

1 Rick began this message by talking about how people in our world often post pictures taken with a celebrity. Why do people often do that? As followers of Jesus what should shape our understanding of who is important?

2 **LOVE is an active verb.** Authentic love is manifested by concrete actions, and for James, it begins with how we decide who is important. **Read James 2:1-4.** In the ancient world you could tell who was “important” based on their clothes. What are some examples of things that are on most people’s “unpublished list” of what makes some people more important today? What should we focus on instead of focusing on differences?

3 **Love welcomes anybody.** God didn’t make anyone to be laughed at, looked down on, or left out. God does not love selectively. That is why anybody is welcome at The Hills Church (see James 2:1). How should that impact the way we treat and interact with everyone we encounter at The Hills Church?

4 **Love values everybody.** **Read James 2:5-11.** You cannot herald grace and practice partiality. The favoritism James is specifically addressing is social prejudice, and he points out that the poor are not the ones most opposing the church. Why is this such a big deal to God? How does James illustrate this point and how should it impact our view on partiality?

5 **Love de-mercies nobody.** **Read James 2:12-13.** Love will denounce sin, but love will never deny mercy to a sinner. A Christian minus love does not realize what a sinner he is. Why is it so important for us to grasp this truth in our own lives? How should it influence the way we extend mercy to others?

6 **LOVE says “different” makes no difference.** Rick closed by sharing this song lyric, “*Everyone needs compassion. The kindness of a Savior. Everyone needs forgiveness. A love that’s never-failing.*” And by reminding us that everyone needs to see what that looks like in verb form. We are meant to be a community that models to the world a new definition of “important.” Share some examples of positive ways you’ve seen this displayed in our church. What are some ways we can still grow in this area (what “adding” do we need to do)? Spend some time praying about these things.