

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ROMANS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 9 - Abraham Justified by Faith - [Romans 4:1-25](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

The Example of Abraham

4 What shall we say then about Abraham, the father of our Jewish nation? What did he discover about this?

2 Because if Abraham obtained right standing with God by something he did, he had something to brag about. But he couldn't brag before God!

3 Because what does the Scripture say?

“Abraham believed what God had promised him. And because of that he was credited with right standing with God, because he believed.” (*Gen. 15:6*)

4 Now when a man works, his wages are not a gift, but the payment of what his employer owes him.

5 But when a person does no work to become right with God, but believes the One who makes ungodly people right with Himself, he obtains right standing with God because of his faith.

6 David said the same thing when he wrote about the happy state of those who were declared “not guilty” by God, even though they hadn't worked to obtain this pardon. He wrote:

7 “How happy are those whose rebellion is forgiven, whose sins are pardoned.

8 Yes, how extremely happy and blessed is the person whose sins will never be charged against him by the Lord.” (*Psa. 32:1-2*)

9 Does this blessing of forgiveness apply only to the Jews, who have been circumcised, or to the uncircumcised Gentiles as well? Remember, we discovered that right standing with God was credited to Abraham because he believed what God promised him.

10 Now think: What were the circumstances when he believed and was given right standing with God? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was before he was circumcised, not after.

11 It was later that he was circumcised. This was a seal, as it were, an outward indication of the right standing he already had, because he believed God while he was still uncircumcised. So he is actually the spiritual father of all uncircumcised people as well, who believe and are made right with God because of their faith.

¹²Of course, he is the father of the Jews—but only of those who are not only circumcised, but who also live the same *obedient* life of faith that Abraham lived even before he was circumcised.

¹³Because God did not promise to give the whole world to Abraham and his descendants because Abraham had obeyed His laws, but because Abraham believed what He promised him. That's how he came to be declared right with God.

¹⁴After all, if they had become God's heirs by obeying His laws, then our faith has no value and God's promise to Abraham is worthless,

¹⁵because God's laws only bring His angry judgment. But where no law is involved, there is no breaking of any law.

¹⁶So, in order to guarantee His promises to all of Abraham's spiritual children, God forgives us by granting us favor we don't deserve when we believe Him. This applies not only to those who had the Laws of Moses, but also to everyone else who lives by the kind of faith that Abraham had. Indeed, Abraham is the spiritual father of all of us.

¹⁷God told Abraham,

“I have made you the father of many nations.” (*Gen. 17:5*)

This is how God sees the matter—the God whom Abraham trusted—the God who raises the dead to life and speaks of those things not in existence with as much certainty as though they existed already.

¹⁸And Abraham lived in hope when there was absolutely no logical reason to hope. He believed he would have a son and become the father of many nations, just as God had promised when He said,

“Your children will be as numerous as the stars in the heavens. It will be impossible for you to count them all.” (*Gen. 15:5*)

¹⁹When Abraham was almost 100 years old, he knew his body was dead, as far as fathering children was concerned, and that Sarah was much too old to have children. But his faith was still strong.

²⁰He didn't doubt that God would still fulfill His promise. He didn't stop believing. In fact, his faith increased*as he praised and thanked God for what he knew God would do.

Romans 4:20 – “His faith increased,*” i.e. was strong.

²¹He was absolutely sure that God was able to do what He had promised.

²²And so, because of his faith, God credited him with right standing with Himself.

23But those words, “God credited him with right standing,” were written not only for him.

24They were also written for us, to whom right standing will be given, if we believe the promises made to us by the One who raised our Lord Jesus from *among* the dead.

25Jesus was handed over to die for our sins. And He was raised to life again in order to grant us right standing with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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94. What was the main characteristic of Abraham’s relationship with God? ([4:1-3](#))
95. How was Abraham righteous before God? ([4:3](#))
96. How did David describe what God does to make a person righteous? ([4:6-8](#))
97. What was the relationship between Abraham’s righteousness and his circumcision? ([4:9-11](#))
98. What was the purpose of circumcision in Abraham’s life? ([4:11](#))
99. On what basis can both the circumcised and the uncircumcised claim Abraham as their father? ([4:11-12](#))
100. On what basis did Abraham receive the promise of inheriting the world? ([4:13](#))
101. Why would God’s promise be worthless if a person had to keep the Law perfectly to receive it? ([4:14-15](#))
102. What does the Law bring to those who live by it? ([4:15](#))
103. What was God’s promise to Abraham? ([4:18](#))
104. What facts might have convinced Abraham that God’s promise of a son was impossible? ([4:19](#))
105. How was Abraham able to resist the temptation to doubt God’s promise? ([4:20](#))
106. What did Abraham believe about God that convinced him God could keep His promise? ([4:20-21](#))
107. How does Abraham’s righteousness by faith apply to us? ([4:23-24](#))

108. Whom has God provided as a worthy object of our faith? ([4:24-25](#))