

Scripture: Romans 4

OPEN:

1. If God actually spoke directly to you and promised to give you something you wanted with all your heart, how would you feel? How would you feel 25 years later if nothing had happened yet?

DIG:

1. Since some of the Jewish converts believed they were set right with God by the law, why does Paul go back to the examples of Abraham and David?
2. How does vv 4:3-8 illustrate what is said in vv 3:27-28? From vv 3-8, on what basis is a right relationship with God given or credited to us?
3. What is Paul's point in stressing that Abraham was counted as right with God before he was circumcised? How do vv 9-17 support Paul's statement in vv 3:29-31?
4. As you walk by faith in Abraham's footsteps (vv 18-21), what do you learn about faith?
5. How do vv 17 and 21 sum up specifically what Abraham believed about God? How do these truths relate to what Paul calls us to believe in vv 23-25?
6. How would you sum up the Gospel from vv 23-25?

REFLECT:

1. Who are some other Biblical characters that you respect as an example of faith? Who are some Christ followers alive now that set the pace for you about trusting in God? What is most important about these people to you?
2. What practical, personal, or emotional differences does it make to you whether a right relationship with God is a gift, or something you have to work for?
3. Since this right relationship is a gift, how would you use Abraham's example to argue against a presumptuous attitude toward God?
4. Where are you being stretched in your ability to trust God's promises to you? What can you learn from Abraham's example to encourage you?