



Abraham: Illustration of Faith

ROMANS 4:1-25

I. God is not a God who saves us because we _____ hard.

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness ... vv. 1-5

God is a God who saves those who believe and _____ work.

☐ Rely on the God who covers _____ sin.

II. God is not a God who is pleased with us because we _____.

For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring ... vv. 14-16a

God is a God who is pleased because of what _____ did.

☐ Trust that what Jesus did was _____.

III. God is not a God who is _____ with His forgiveness.

No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. vv. 20-25

God is a God who longs for everyone to _____ on grace.

☐ Rest on the fact that God always keeps His _____ of grace.



ROAD TO REDEMPTION

DEVOTIONAL STUDY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Romans 4:1-25. What are some acts or practices people perform in an attempt to please God or earn His favor? Why do they also expect others to do these things instead of telling them about the grace of God?

2. How does reading about God's dealings with Abraham help you understand His work in your life?

3. God counted Abraham as righteous even before Abraham could succeed or fail, and He didn't look at Abraham's faltering faith along the way as much as where that faith would ultimately take him much later. How could you apply this long-term perspective of God's when you feel discouraged about your own spiritual growth?

4. Abraham's experience gradually gave him greater ability to trust God despite the apparent contradictions surrounding him. How has God gradually trained your faith in this same way? What past experiences can you share that would encourage others who struggle?

5. How does knowing the character of God help you to follow Him and trust Him? Give examples of situations when you didn't trust God, and what you learned to do differently.

6. As you close, read and meditate on the attributes of God in Psalm 103. Which of these attributes do you most need to embrace right now? Which(s) will you memorize this week?

"Faith is only as good as its object. All people trust something, if only themselves, but the Christian trusts Christ."

WARREN WIERSBE

"How big is your God? Are you tossed about by the waves of circumstance in a sea of chaos, or do you understand that God has every matter under His divine control and that He has a purpose for every event you encounter? Do you accept the finality of impossibilities, or do you allow God to have the final say in those matters? When you pray, do you shy away from asking God to accomplish big things, or do you trust that He is not only able but very likely willing to dramatically and supernaturally act on your behalf? The size of your God has everything to do with your answers. Who is directing your future—no matter what your age—a puny god with no imagination and little power? Or do you serve an infinitely creative, immensely powerful, gigantic God? Let me challenge you to become a 'big-godder.' Begin by committing yourself to knowing Him as He is."

CHARLES SWINDOLL

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
 2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
 3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
 4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)
- "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:
- "Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."*

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

DTS LEARNING LABS Throughout this year, we've planned new ways for all of us to Be, Make and Reach—and that includes our new DTS Learning Labs. These classes, taught by Dallas Theological Seminary Professors, are an in-depth dive into major questions and theological topics! Register today at www.ccbcfamily.org/dts.

MUSIC PRAISE If your child enjoys singing in the choir as much as musical theater, sign them up for MusicPraise! Students will learn several anthems or hymns and have opportunities to sing for our congregation in worship during the year, including the Cantata celebration. In addition to teaching choral techniques, we will work on a Biblical musical with riser choreography and a great variety of musical styles. Learn more at www.ccbcfamily.org/musicpraise.

FORGIVEN AND FREE We all have stories that come from living in a hurting world. If abortion has been a part of your story, it can be difficult living in another chapter when there is still pain from a previous one. Our heart is to provide a space to move from shame to freedom because of Jesus' love and grace! We invite you to step into a new chapter of your story, but not alone – with Jesus' power and a group of other women pursuing restoration together. Learn more at www.ccbcfamily.org/forgiven.

CHECK OUT THE EMBARK CLASS Embark is our new "get to know Christ Chapel" class – great for anyone who wants to go deeper with us or is considering membership. Whether you've been here a few weeks or a few decades, Embark will help you learn more about Christ Chapel, find your best next step and meet staff. Learn more today at www.ccbcfamily.org/embark.

DIGITAL RESOURCES Throughout the week, grow in faith and encourage others to do the same! Check out Christ Chapel's digital resources by visiting our social media channels, YouTube, website and brand-new app! Each resource comes with content that helps all of us continue to Be disciples, Make disciples and Reach out to more of the 800,000 for God's glory, the good of the community and for our faith to increase in Jesus!

PARENT DEDICATION Join us for a special event to honor the gift God has given you, dedicating yourself to raise your child to know and love God. Parent Dedication will be on Sunday, Oct. 27. Register today and learn more about being a part at: www.ccbcfamily.org/dedication.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text GIVE to 24253 to get started.