

# The Faith of Abraham

July 18th, 2021

**Precepts**

# Opening Question(s)

Have you ever had to hold on to faith in  
a tough situation?

## ROMANS 4:1-4(NLT)

1 Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God?

2 If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way.

3 For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith."

4 When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned.

## ROMANS 4:5- 8(NLT)

5 But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

6 David also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it:

7 “Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight.

8 Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of sin.”

## ROMANS 4:9-12 (NLT)

9 Now, is this blessing only for the Jews, or is it also for uncircumcised Gentiles? Well, we have been saying that Abraham was counted as righteous by God because of his faith.

10 But how did this happen? Was he counted as righteous only after he was circumcised, or was it before he was circumcised? Clearly, God accepted Abraham before he was circumcised!

11 Circumcision was a sign that Abraham already had faith and that God had already accepted him and declared him to be righteous—even before he was circumcised. So Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have faith but have not been circumcised. They are counted as righteous because of their faith.

12 And Abraham is also the spiritual father of those who have been circumcised, but only if they have the same kind of faith Abraham had before he was circumcised.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Have you ever benefited from the generosity of others? What was your response?
- 2. What are some ways to make the news of Jesus' gift of salvation go viral?

# APPLICATION FOR ACTIVATION

- Debates over circumcision rarely arise today, but conflicts over other religious rituals, practices, and norms continue to keep the body of Christ divided about who is in right standing with God.
- Think about a religious difference you have recently noticed. Take the position of the side you are opposed to and defend it as vigorously as you would defend your position.

# APPLICATION FOR ACTIVATION

- Identify ways the opposing position extends the redemptive grace of God to more people.
- What are some ways that you can invite people who hold your point of view to look at the conflict from another's perspective?