

Abraham and Faith



Week Four

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Romans 4

JUSTIFICATION IS AS OLD AS ABRAHAM

Justification by faith apart from works isn't something Paul invented. According to Paul's careful reading of Genesis, Abraham was justified by faith (Romans 4:3; Genesis 15:6). Paul wasn't teaching a new theology. He was bringing to light what Scripture had taught from the very beginning.

Paul continues his discussion of justification by faith by looking at Abraham's life. Abraham was the prototypical righteous man and the father of the Jewish nation whom God had given the covenant of circumcision (Genesis 17:10–27). In the Jewish community of Paul's time, there was an decided connection between works like circumcision in the Jewish ethnic identity and justification or righteousness before God. Since circumcision was the command of God, it was unthinkable that anyone could be a righteous person who was not circumcised.

Through a careful examination of the life of Abraham, Paul discovers that circumcision wasn't necessary for righteousness before God. Amazingly, Abraham was righteous by faith before his circumcision (Romans 4:10; Genesis 15:6; Genesis 17:10–27). Since Abraham was declared righteous before any works, anyone can be righteous by faith apart from works. When it comes to justification, our works and ethnic identity don't matter. What matters is receiving God's gracious gift of justification (Romans 4:7, 8). Righteousness by faith apart from works transcends ethnic boundaries and can create a new community of those untethered by ethnic identity markers.



inScribe

Write out Romans 4 from the Bible translation of your choice. If you are pressed for time, write out Romans 4:9–12. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.

inGest



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?



Memorize your favorite verse in Romans 4. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

In what way do you find Abraham's faith inspiring?



Read more at
www.inverseible.org/rom04-3



After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How do you feel about God accounting you righteous even when you are ungodly?



Read more at
www.inverseible.org/rom04-4



What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Galatians 3:1-25

Titus 3:3-8

Deuteronomy 9:4-6

Hebrews 11:8-12, 17, 18

Genesis 17:9-14



What other verses come to mind in connecting faith with Abraham?

Review your memorized verse from Romans 4.



Where do you see Jesus in
Romans 4?



How have you ever laughed at
God's promises

What is Jesus saying to you
through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently
or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to
seeing Jesus in this way?



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www.inverseible.org/rom04-6



Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?



After this week's study of the
chapter, what are applications
that you are convicted of
personally?

What practical applications
can be applied to your family,
church, and/or social circles?

A large grid of small dots for writing notes.



Read more inSight from the
Spirit of Prophecy at
www.inverseible.org/rom04-7



inquire

Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



How could the early church's debates about circumcision help your church's unresolved discussions?

How can you contribute to this trans-ethnic family of faith?

How have you been able to embrace righteousness by faith at the heart level?

How does God's promise that He is not and shall not count your sins against you make you feel?

What does faith mean to you?

How does one believe as Abraham did?

How does grace guarantee salvation?

Is it presumptuous to have assurance of salvation? Why?

Why or why not is salvation by grace lawless?

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