

LARGE GROUP WORSHIP *Session* 2



RECONCILED TO GOD

Romans 4:13–5:21

If the gospel is the light that illuminates the righteousness of God, Paul wanted the church to understand that all people have access to that light through faith. Paul began Romans 4 by using the father of many nations, Abraham, as an example for the church to follow. As a case study in faithfulness, Abraham was the perfect example to help the church understand Paul's point.

Certainly, Jewish believers would have been well versed in the story of Abraham, but for the Gentile believers hearing Paul's letter, Paul clearly identified who Abraham was and why Abraham was so important. Paul attested that Abraham understood the gospel, though he might not have recognized his belief as such. Abraham believed what God said even if it didn't make sense to him, and God credited Abraham's belief as righteousness.

Paul contrasted Abraham's righteousness with a worker who is paid for his work. While wages are an expectation for work completed, the righteousness of God cannot be bought or earned. Righteousness is a free gift, offered by God, through faith in Jesus Christ. So, what does that faith look like? Abraham again serves as the example of this faith.

Many Jewish believers in the early church incorrectly believed that circumcision was necessary for Gentile believers who came to faith in Christ. Paul clearly stated that God recognized Abraham as righteous through faith alone. The gospel isn't faith and some other things; it is only faith. Abraham understood that, and God credited it as righteousness.

Faith like Abraham's was not reserved for Abraham alone but to all those who believe in the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus. Believers today are justified in the same way as Abraham—through faith in God's Word and works. When believers trust that what God said is true, they can have peace with God. God loves people so much that He sent His Son, Jesus. While we continued in sin, God saw fit to send Jesus to live a sinless life then die in our place as a sacrifice for sin. Because of this, we, too, can have the righteousness of God.

SESSION FOCUS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Romans 4:13–5:21

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE: Ephesians 2:4-5

BONUS BIBLE VERSE: Romans 5:8

TEXT TRUTH: God showed us His love when He sent Jesus to die for our sin.

CHRIST IN CONTEXT: The book of Romans illuminates the gospel of Jesus Christ. Sin entered the world through one man—Adam—and spread to all people. The good news is that salvation also entered the world through one man—Jesus. This is how God showed His great love to us: God sent Jesus—while we were sinners—to die for our sin. Through faith in Jesus, we can receive His righteousness and be reconciled to God.

RECONCILED TO GOD

BIBLE STORY PASSAGES: Romans 4:13–5:21

Paul wanted to explain to the Romans that having a relationship with God can only happen by faith alone. After you trust in Jesus as Savior, instead of your sin, God sees Jesus' sinless life and His sacrifice on the cross for your sin when He looks at you. We cannot have a relationship with God because of anything we do. Instead, we place our faith in what Jesus did for us. Paul used Abraham as an example to help the Romans understand that we can only have a relationship with God when we have faith.

Paul wrote, "God's promise to Abraham and his descendants was a promise of faith, given by grace, and secured for all who believe. Abraham believed that God created from nothing and can bring the dead back to life. Although it seemed impossible for Abraham to become the father of many nations, Abraham had hope and faith. He did not stop believing. Instead, Abraham praised God because Abraham believed that God would keep His promise. Abraham believed and he was forgiven of his sin. Like Abraham, if we believe that Jesus died to pay for our sin and was raised three days later, we can also have a relationship with God." Then Paul continued, "Remember, when we were helpless in our sin, Christ died for us. God has proven His love for us because while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Now we are forgiven and saved from God's wrath. Once we were enemies of God, but through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have been reunited (reconciled) with God and now we can rejoice."

Paul continued, "Do not forget that sin and death entered the world through one man—Adam—and spread to all people. The good news is that salvation entered the world through one man—Jesus. God gave Jesus as the sacrifice for our sin. Jesus was perfectly righteous—He never sinned. God's law has helped us see our sin and our need for grace. Through Jesus, we can receive eternal life."

WELCOME

- Display the “Delamotte Painting” object slide.
- Ask: “What do you think the main idea of this painting is?” (*the word “faith”*) “What does the word *faith* mean?”
- Say: “The word *faith* means to believe and obey. When you have faith in something, you are sure that it is true. Having faith in God means trusting that He and His Word are true.”
- Continue: “God loves us. He does all things for our good and His glory. We can have faith in Him because He is trustworthy and always keeps His promises!”

WORSHIP

- Display the Text Truth.
- Guide the group to stand and say the Text Truth with you: **God showed us His love when He sent Jesus to die for our sin.**
- Say: “God is so good to us! He has offered us the greatest gift of all. We only need to respond in faith. Let’s take some time to praise God for His wonderful gift of salvation.”
- Stand and sing “In Christ I Am.”
- Pray.
- Collect an offering while you sing “More Like Jesus.”

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

- Say: “Today, we are going to remember a man who was mentioned near the beginning of the Bible in the book of Genesis. His name was Abraham.”
- Ask: “Who was Abraham?” (*the father of the Jewish people*) “What promise did God make to Abraham?”
- Say: “God promised that He would make a great nation from Abraham’s children. If someone makes a promise, should they keep it?” (*Give the children time to answer.*) “Sometimes, people do not keep the promises that they make to us, but God always keeps His promises.”
- Continue: “We are going to read about how God did keep His promise and how it was greater than Abraham could ever have imagined. The Bible is not just a book of stories. It is one big story that tells of God’s love and His good plans for His people.”
- Option: Show the “Explore the Bible on Location” video.

TOOL BOX

- Welcome: “Delamotte Painting” (slide)
- Worship: “Text Truth 2” (slide), music videos (Video & Media Extras), offering basket
- Introduce the Session: Bible, Option: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Dig Deeper: piece of paper, permanent marker, box, wrapping paper, tape, ribbon
- Practice Bible Skills: adhesive labels, permanent marker, interlocking plastic blocks
- Missions: “Burmese Bible Translating” (Music & Print Extras), Bible
Option: cell phone or tablet with Internet access
- Closing: music videos (Video & Media Extras)

DIG DEEPER

- Open your Bible and read Romans 4:13.
- Ask: “Did Abraham make the promise to God, or did God make the promise to Abraham?” (*God made the promise.*)
- Say: “God is the One who made the promise. Abraham did not have to do anything to make God keep His word. Abraham only had to believe that God would!”
- Read Romans 4:20-21.
- Say: “Abraham was a very old man. What God had promised seemed impossible, but Abraham chose to believe God over and over again. The more Abraham chose to believe, the stronger his faith grew. God continued to do His work, and Abraham continued to give glory to God. Abraham had faith that God would keep His promise.”
- Read Romans 4:22-25.
- Ask: “Why was Abraham’s faith counted as righteousness?” (*He believed God.*)
- Say: “No matter how hard he tried, Abraham could not be righteous on his own. But God did not ask Abraham to fulfill the promise. God asked Abraham to have faith and obey. When Abraham trusted God, God counted it as righteousness.”
- Ask: “Are these verses just about Abraham?” (*No.*) “What does this promise mean for us?” (*We, too, can be counted as righteous.*)
- Say: “We know that God kept His promise when He sent Jesus to die on the cross. Just like Abraham, we must have faith to be counted righteous. When we repent of sin and have faith in Jesus and His work on the cross, God counts it as righteousness!”
- Ask: “Is righteousness the only thing that God gives to us when we accept Christ?” (*No, there is so much more.*)
- Read Romans 5:1-5.
- Say: “When we choose to believe the gospel, we get so much! We have peace with God, and we know that God is always in control. We know that God is working everything for our good and for His glory.”
- Ask: “Do we deserve to be counted as righteous?” (*No.*)
- Read Romans 5:7-8.
- Say: “We are sinners, and we could never do enough to earn salvation. But God loves us so much that, while we were sinners, Christ died for us!*
- Read Romans 5:14-15.
- Ask: “How did sin enter the world?” (*Adam and Eve*) “Who were Adam and Eve?” (*the first man and woman*)
- Say: “Adam and Eve were the first man and first woman. God created them in His image. They sinned against God. Because we are the offspring of Adam and Eve, we too, are affected by sin.”
- Ask: “If one man can bring sin into the world, do you think one man

BONUS BIBLE VERSE

- This week’s Bonus Bible Verse is Romans 5:8.

*GOSPEL CONNECTING POINT

- This would be a natural point to share the gospel with your kids.

bring salvation and hope?” (*Allow the kids to share their ideas.*)

- Say: “Adam brought sin into the world, but Jesus brought salvation to the world. Salvation is a gift. Your sin may be great, but God’s grace is greater!”
- Write the Text Truth on a piece of paper. Put it into a box and wrap the box up like a beautiful present using the wrapping paper and ribbon.
- Invite a child up to the front. Instruct him to open the present and read the Text Truth aloud: **God showed us His love when He sent Jesus to die for our sin.**
- Say: “Salvation is the greatest gift there is! **God showed us His love when He sent Jesus to die for our sin.**”
- Ask: “If Jesus has already provided the gift, what must we do?” (*receive it*)
- Give the present to another adult in the room.
- Say: “In order to have the gift, we must respond by receiving it. We do not have to earn it, but we must respond. We can receive God’s gift of salvation by repenting of our sins and trusting in Jesus.”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Write each word of Ephesians 2:4-5 on adhesive labels. Make sure to include the reference.
- Peel and stick each label on a plastic interlocking block. There should be one word on each block. Attach and construct the plastic interlocking blocks to form the Scripture passage.
- Hold the block passage and instruct the kids to read the verse aloud with you two times.
- Remove a block and say the verse again. Continue until all of the blocks have been removed, making sure to repeat the verse each time a word is taken away.
- Option: You may choose to allow the children to remove the blocks one at a time by passing it around the room.

MISSIONS

- Ask: “Who can remember the names of the missionaries we talked about last week?” (*Adoniram and Ann Judson*)
- Say: “Adoniram and Ann Judson traveled East on a large ship to tell people about Jesus in Burma. Because it was such a long trip, it was not possible for the couple to travel back home to America often.”
- Continue: “Once Ann had to return to America because she was sick, and she needed to be away from the tropical weather to get better. Ann stayed in America two years to help people in America understand that the missionaries needed more help to tell people about Jesus in the Eastern part of the world.”

BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Memorize individual Bible verses.
- Know the Bible tells that God sent Jesus to earth because He loves all people.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

- The monthly Memory Verse is Ephesians 2:4-5.

- Mention: “Adoniram continued translating the Bible into the Burmese language and telling people about Jesus while Ann was in America.”
- Open the Bible to John 3:16. Point out to the boys and girls that the Bible tells us about God’s Son, Jesus. Read the verse in English. Then look at the “Burmese Bible Translating” poster to see the verse in the Burmese language. If possible, use your device to listen to the verse read aloud in Burmese by an online voice translation.
- Remind the kids how challenging it can be to translate the Bible into another language.
- Say: “For example, translating a phrase such as “white as snow” for a people group living in a tropical nation who has never seen snow can create challenges. Other times, words in one language do not always mean the same thing in other languages. Translators must work carefully when translating the Bible.”
- Close in prayer, thanking God for people who have worked to translate the Bible so more people can know about God and His Son, Jesus.

REVIEW

- Guide the children through a series of statements in which they must determine whether it is correct or incorrect. Instruct them to give you a thumbs up if it is correct and a thumbs down if the statement is incorrect.
- Say: “God always keeps His promises.” (*correct*) “Abraham was counted as righteous because he always did what was right.” (*incorrect*) “We are counted as righteous when we repent of sin and have faith in Jesus Christ.” (*correct*) “Adam brought sin into the world.” (*correct*) “Jesus brought salvation.” (*correct*) “You must work very hard to receive Salvation.” (*incorrect*) “Salvation is a gift that God gives and we choose to receive.” (*correct*)
- Option: Take the time to explain a statement if it appears that the boys and girls do not understand it.

CLOSING

- Share your salvation testimony with the group. If possible, invite a kid to briefly share her testimony, too.
- Say: “If you ever have questions about the gospel, you can always come talk to me. Faith and action go hand in hand. Sometimes, the best way to strengthen your faith is to take an action step by asking questions.”
- Pray, thanking God that He always keeps His promises. Thank Him for the gift of salvation.
- Play “Trust” in the background as the children exit.