



Session 2



BELIEVE GOD

Romans 4–5

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

TEXT TRUTH

Trust in God and believe His promises.

BIBLE STORY

Romans 4–5

BIBLE VERSE

Romans 5:1

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The book of Romans affirms that we became sinners through one man, Adam, and we will be saved through one man, Jesus. Through Jesus, sinful man is reconciled to holy God.

BIBLE SKILLS: Preschoolers will . . .

- Know there are two main parts of the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- Hear that the Bible teaches people how God wants them to live.



CONNECT WITH FAMILIES

Provide these weekly resources to help families explore the Bible together.

- Explore the Bible at Home (Printable: Music & Print Extras)
- Preschool Activity Page
- Preschool Family Card

MISSIONS ACTIVITY: MAKE A PEOPLE POSTER



Tools: Bible, poster board, glue sticks or tape, picture cutouts of people (various ages and nationalities), colorful stickers, washi tape, markers, 1 or 2 books related to missions work and Jesus

- Encourage children to work together to make a poster showing people who can hear about Jesus.
- Guide children to share the glue sticks and choose places to glue pictures on the poster board.
- Comment on the various ages and nationalities of the people in the pictures. Remark: “Everyone should know about Jesus and the wonderful things He did. Teachers tell you about Jesus. Missionaries tell people that God sent Jesus to help people and rescue them. Jesus did many good things.”
- Read a book to preschoolers and remind them that we can be missionaries and tell people about Jesus, too.

LEADER TIP!

Include this special missions-focused activity in addition to preschoolers’ Bible Explorations.

TEXT TRUTH

Trust in God and believe His promises.

BIBLE STORY

Paul Told About Abraham
Romans 4–5

BIBLE VERSE

Through faith in Jesus, we have peace with God.
Romans 5:1

LEADER TIP!

The stories Paul used about Abraham in his letter to the Romans can be found in the book of Genesis (chapters 15 and 17). Open your Bible to these chapters. Point out to preschoolers that there are stories mentioned in the New Testament that happened in the Old Testament.

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the session Bible verse you want to use with your group.

PAUL TOLD ABOUT ABRAHAM

Romans 4–5

Paul wanted people to understand how to have peace in their hearts and minds. Paul wrote a letter to the church people in Rome to help them know more about faith and trust in God. Paul reminded the people about Abraham and his faith in God's promises.

Paul said that all his life Abraham had obeyed God and worshiped Him. Abraham trusted God and believed what God said.

God knew Abraham was obedient, so God made a promise to Abraham: God would give Abraham and his wife, Sarah, a son. After that, Abraham's family would grow until there were more children than anyone could count.

Abraham had faith in God's promise for a family. Abraham believed what God said and praised God for blessing him.

Paul told the church people in Rome to have faith like Abraham. Paul said, "We can have peace like Abraham. God gives us peace when we believe that God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us and show the way for people to be with God forever."

Paul loved the people. He wanted them to understand how much God loved them. Paul encouraged the church people to always remember that God would give them strength and hope so they could continue to serve God and tell the world about Jesus.

Paul said that God loves all people and is willing and ready to help everyone who trusts Him and believes in Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

By faith, we have peace with God through Jesus. Romans 5:1

Paraphrase:

Through faith in Jesus, we have peace with God. Romans 5:1



CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

GATHER

- Invite preschoolers to join you in the Circle Time area. Ask: “If you could be like someone you know when you grow up, who would it be?” Discuss who each person would want to be like and why.
- Say: “In our Bible story today, we will hear about a man named Abraham. Abraham trusted in God and believed His promises. Abraham is someone we can try to be like as we follow God.”

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Place the Bible in your lap. Open it to a bookmark placed at Romans 4. Display the Story Picture as you tell the story.
- Say: “Abraham trusted that God would do what He said He would do. Paul tells us in Romans that we should be like Abraham. We should trust in God and believe His promises.”
- Point to the Text Truth Poster. Read today’s Text Truth and repeat it together.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Lay a long tape line on the floor. Say: “The Bible is made up of two parts—the Old Testament and the New Testament. Our story today is from a New Testament book, Romans. Paul talked about Abraham, didn’t he? Abraham lived before Jesus was born. We can read about Abraham in an Old Testament book called Genesis.”
- Invite preschoolers to stand on one side of the tape line. Designate one side as the Old Testament side and the other as the New Testament side. Say the words *Old* and *New* alternately, directing children to jump from side to side.
- Say a Bible book name. Help preschoolers find this name on either side of the tape line. Invite preschoolers to jump to the correct side based on whether the book is in the Old Testament or New Testament.

PRAY

- Pray that God will help boys and girls trust in God and believe His promises.

TOOLS

- Music & Print Extras
- masking tape

PACK ITEMS

- 2 Story Picture: Paul Told About Abraham
- 15 Text Truth Poster
- 16 Text Truth Poster Cards
- 23 Bible Book Markers

PRINTABLES

- Bible Book Pages

LEADER TIP!

Lay the Bible Book Pages on the appropriate side of the tape line. Consider making two signs to identify the Bible parts: Old Testament and New Testament.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

TEXT TRUTH

Trust in God and believe His promises.

BIBLE STORY

Paul Told About Abraham
Romans 4-5

BIBLE VERSE

Through faith in Jesus, we have peace with God.
Romans 5:1

PACK ITEMS

2 Story Picture: Paul Told About Abraham
18 GOD Lacing Letters
25 Yes/No Signs
28 September Verse Markers
32 Bible People Wheel

LEADER TIP!

Examples of promises kept and promises broken:

- A sibling promises she will read a book to you, and she doesn't.
- A friend promises to share a new toy with you, and she does.
- You promise to draw a picture for a friend, but you forget.
- You promise to feed your pet before dinner, and you do.

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers. Use the Bible in every exploration.

PLAY A PROMISE GAME

Tools: Bible, Yes/No Signs, tape

- Tape the Yes/No Signs to opposite walls at children's eye level.
- Invite several children to play a promise game. Point out the Yes/No Signs.
- Say: "Paul wrote about the faith of Abraham. Abraham trusted God to keep His promises. We can trust that God will keep His promises to us, too."
- Direct children to listen as you describe different situations. Say: "Decide if someone is keeping a promise or not." (See Leader Tip for examples.)
- Tell boys and girls to move to the appropriate sign after each scenario is read.
- Say: "God always keeps His promises."

LACE LETTERS

Tools: Bible, GOD Lacing Letters, hole punch, yarn, tape

- Prepare the Lacing Letters ahead of time. Lay them on a table in correct order to spell God's name.
- Help children identify the letters and say: "Those letters spell God's name. Choose a letter to lace."
- Guide preschoolers to lace yarn through the holes.
- Ask children to tell some things they know to be true about God. Suggest: God is good. God helps people. God keeps His promises.
- Say: "Paul said that God kept His promise to Abraham."
- Tell the Bible story.

MAKE A POSTER

Tools: Bible, Bible People Wheel, black paper, white washable paint, cotton swabs, white paper strips with Trust in God printed on them (1 strip per child), glue sticks

- Turn the Bible People Wheel to show Paul and Abraham.
- Point to Paul. Say: "Paul told the church people in Rome that Abraham trusted God and believed His promises."
- Point to Abraham. Recall that God promised Abraham that he and Sarah would have a very large family, more people than anyone could count. Abraham trusted God.
- Give children art supplies to make a "Trust in God" poster. Each child may paint with white paint and glue a "Trust in God" paper strip to the paper.
- Open the Bible to Romans 4–5 and recall the Bible story.

CLIP WORD STARS ON A LINE

Tools: Bible, September Verse Markers, yellow paper to make large star cutouts, washable markers, star stickers, scissors, clothesline, clothespins

- Put today's marker in the Bible.
- Cut out several stars. Print Bible verse words on the cutouts (one or two words per star). Add one sticker on the first star, two stickers on the second star, and so on. Put a clothesline at children's eye level.
- Open the Bible to the marker and read Romans 5:1. Say: "God told Abraham He would make Abraham's children as numerous as the stars in the sky. God kept His promise to Abraham!"
- Invite children to work together to arrange the Bible word stars in order and clip them to the clothesline.

TOSS BALLS IN A BOX

Tools: Bible, 2 cardboard boxes, 2 soft balls, colored paper, tape, marker, Story Picture: Paul Told About Abraham

- On one paper, print the word *Trust* in large letters. On the other paper, write the name *God*. Tape a paper to the side of each box. Place the boxes side by side.
- Give a ball to a child and tell him to toss it into a box. Read the word on the box in which the ball lands.
- Relate the word to today's Bible story and verse. Say: "Paul reminded the church people to trust God and believe Him just as Abraham had trusted God."
- Give other children turns to toss balls into boxes.
- Show children the Story Picture and ask children to point to Abraham and the stars in the sky.

LEADER TIP!

Do not leave the children unattended near the clothesline.

TEXT TRUTH

Trust in God and believe His promises.

BIBLE STORY

Paul Told About Abraham
Romans 4–5

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

Through faith in Jesus, we
have peace with God.
Romans 5:1

PACK ITEMS

2 Story Picture: Paul Told
About Abraham
23 Bible Book Markers

PRINTABLES

Bible Book Pages

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

Look for printable Next Hour Helps in Music & Print Extras.

MOVE POM-POMS WITH TONGS

Tools: Bible, Bible Book Markers, Bible Book Pages (1 Romans page per child), craft pom-poms, 2 or 3 tongs safe for children's use

- Invite a child to open the Bible to the marker placed at the book of Romans.
- Say: “Romans is a letter written by Paul. Paul wanted to help people in the Roman churches learn more about Jesus. Paul wanted people to trust in God and believe His promises.”
- Distribute the printable to preschoolers. Say “Romans” and name the letters. Guide children to use tongs to pick up pom-poms and place them on the letter outlines to spell *Romans*.

MAKE & COUNT STARS

Tools: Bible, fresh play dough, play dough tools, star-shaped cookie cutters

- Show children the star-shaped cookie cutters. Say: “Stars remind me of God’s promise to Abraham. Do you remember that promise?” (God would give Abraham more children than stars in the sky.) Continue: “Paul wrote about that promise.”
- Show preschoolers the mention of Abraham in Romans 4. Tap Abraham’s name on the page.
- Invite a few children at a time to make play dough stars. After a few minutes, guide children to count the stars.
- Open the Bible to Romans 5:1. Read the verse as you remind children that we can have faith in Jesus.

HOP TO THE BIBLE

Tools: Bible, masking tape, Activity Page

- Place the Activity Page in the Bible at Romans 4.
- Make a hopscotch grid on the floor. Make the sections larger than a child’s foot. Show a child how to hop on one foot, two feet, one foot, and so on. At each step, say a letter in the word *Bible*.

- After a child completes her turn, tell her to get the Bible. Ask her to open it to the Activity Page at Romans 4.
- Say: “This part of the New Testament is Romans. This is a letter that Paul wrote to church people. Paul reminded the people about Abraham, someone who lived during Old Testament times.”
- Show the child the picture of Abraham and summarize the Bible story.
- Give other children turns to hop to the Bible.

REVEAL A PICTURE

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Paul Told About Abraham, pad of sticky notes

- Cover the entire Story Picture with the sticky notes.
- Invite children to remove sticky notes one at a time and tell something about the picture.
- As more of the picture is revealed, recall the Bible story.
- Open a Bible to Romans 4 to show children where we read the Bible story in the New Testament part of the Bible.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music and invite children to find a place to sit in the Circle Time area.
- Pass the Story Picture around the circle.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Open a Bible to Romans 4.
- Ask preschoolers to tell what they remember about Abraham.
- Say: “Abraham trusted in God and believed His promises. We can trust God and believe His promises, too.”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Pass the Bible around the circle while music plays.
- Stop the music and tell the child holding the Bible to stand. Lead the preschooler to say today’s Bible verse.
- Resume the music and passing the Bible. Give every child a turn to say the Bible verse.

PRAY

- Thank God for keeping His promises. Ask God to help preschoolers trust in God and believe His promises.