

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – May 7, 2023

Theme: The Power of God at work in us Topic: Abraham: Righteousness by Faith

Main Text: Romans 4:1-25

Key verse: Romans 4:3 – *“For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.””* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: The Bible records in Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV), *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* In other words, faith is belief in something or someone, without any tangible evidence to support that belief. Abraham was called a man of faith. Why? According to the text in Romans 4, it is because he believed wholly and completely in God. And for that, the Bible records, *‘... it was counted unto him as righteousness.’* In other words, he was considered righteous by virtue of his faith in God. Imagine if Abraham had “earned” his righteousness through the battles that he fought and won, or through the lands and property that he acquired over the years. He would have been able to boast of his “success” through his own works. But certainly not to God, for God does not demand works from us. Rather, God’s desire is that we believe Him and trust Him completely to do what He says He will do.

1. **(a) Read Genesis 17:1-8. What was the basis for Abraham’s faith in God? (b) What is the relevance of the law when it comes to faith? (Romans 4:14, 15) (c) What is that one thing that can make us lose faith in God? (Read Matthew 13:58; 21:21; Mark 11:23).**

Abraham believed, even when it seemed impossible that the things he believed God for could be. A father of nations? To a man who was childless at almost one hundred years old? With a wife who was well past child-bearing age? How was that possible? The incredulousness of the situation by human standards, is what makes Abraham worthy of being called righteous for his faith. It’s that unshakeable faith, that faith that remains steadfast in the face of ridicule, that faith so complete and total that a man would willingly sacrifice his own son, defying all human reasoning and logic, because God asked him to do so; It is that kind of faith that God desires of us.

2. **(a) Read Romans 4: 11, 16. Why was it necessary for Abraham to be uncircumcised at the time when his faith was accounted to him as righteousness? And what was the implication of his uncircumcision for the Gentiles? (b) Why should we be encouraged by the fact that Abraham’s faith was counted to him as righteousness? What does this mean for people today – believers and unbelievers? (Romans 4:23, 24) (c) What begins to happen as we continually exercise our faith in God? How do we know this? (Romans 4:19; Matthew 21:21).**

Jesus talked about the faith of the mustard-seed in Matthew 17:20. He said, *“For assuredly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you”* (NKJV). The principle that Jesus was teaching His disciples was that the tiny mustard seed holds the potential for significant impact. The mustard seed is about one to two millimeters in size, yet its tree can grow as big as 20 to 30 feet tall and wide. And so, our faith does not need to be outwardly large for it to have an enormous impact. All we need is faith, no matter how small, for righteousness to be accounted to us.

3. **(a) What is the promise for those who have faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus our Lord? (1 Corinthians 15:51-55). (b) Why is faith necessary for the believer? (Hebrews 11:6) (c) What are you currently facing that is challenging your faith in God? What lessons can we learn from other biblical heroes of faith recorded in Hebrews 11:1-40?**

Prayer: *Dear Father, help me to trust in You completely, and to believe Your promises to me. Grant me the grace to cast aside all fear, all doubt, and all human reasoning, and to exercise pure, child-like faith in You, so that like Abraham, it may be counted unto me as righteousness, in Jesus Name, Amen.*