

LESSON 4
ABRAHAM, A MODEL OF FAITH
ROMANS 4:1–25



1 What does it mean to have faith in God?

2 How does a person live by faith?



Read Romans 4 and the following notes:

☐ 4:4 ☐ 4:5 ☐ 4:6–8 ☐ 4:10–12 ☐ 4:21 ☐ 4:25

3 What does Paul mean by the frequently used phrase “declared righteous”?

4 Abraham was an ideal example of a person of faith for both Jews and Gentiles. What characteristics of this great man help us identify with him?



5 How did Abraham exemplify true faith?

Faith is not just believing that a certain series of events will come to pass—it is believing that God is faithful in fulfilling his promises. There is a subtle but important difference. The former way of thinking can cause us to keep taking things back into our own hands instead of relying on God to act in his way and in his time. Abraham experienced the consequences of trying to make everything work out by his own efforts. But he learned through his struggles how to rely totally on God. He learned the difference between hoping that situations will work out a certain way and trusting in God, who will fulfill his promises. This knowledge allowed Abraham to be used by God to bless all humankind. This is real, life-changing faith.

6 Today's rational person would say that having faith when there is no hope is simply foolishness. If you believe that God still does what is impossible, how might you try to persuade a skeptical person to be open to God's unexpected intervention?

7 Why is it so difficult for people today to live by faith? How do we take matters into our own hands and miss what God wants to do for us?

8 Someone might say, “If my salvation depends on faith, what happens when my faith isn’t strong enough?” What would you say to reassure that person?



9 How is a life built on a foundation of faith better than one built on a foundation of just doing what is right?

10 Abraham made mistakes, as have all of the heroes of the faith. What lessons can we learn from how these great men and women of God handled their moments of defeat?

11 Imagine that the time line below represents your life. Mark on it the periods or events that were your personal highs and lows in terms of living by faith. What lessons can you learn from these ups and downs?

Birth	Present

12 What factors keep you from living more fully and consistently by faith?

13 How would your life be different if you were living by faith? Choose at least one area of your life where you need to exercise more faith, and prayerfully turn it over to God. What does he want you to start (or perhaps stop) doing in this area?



A What other Old Testament characters might Paul have mentioned as heroes of the faith, and why?

B Paul describes Abraham as one whose faith never wavered, and yet Scripture tells us that he had his highs and lows. Recall the key events from Abraham's life, and draw a time line to show the peaks and valleys of his faith experience.

C Paul talks about the promise God made to Abraham (Genesis 12), which included three parts—land, descendants, and blessing for all nations. How does this promise affect today's situation in the Middle East?

D How does God's promise to Abraham apply to Christians?

E Paul uses some interesting phrases to describe Abraham (for example, father of all who believe, father of many nations). What does this suggest about the nature of God's family? What does being in God's family mean to you?

F Compare what Abraham believed about God with what we must believe about God if we are to be considered righteous.

G The truth for all ages is that people must not only believe in God, they must also believe God. How would you explain to someone else exactly what faith in Jesus Christ means?

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