

LifeGroup Study SheetMarch 19th and 22nd, 2026: Romans 4:1-12

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Think of a time you tried to 'earn' something you could have just asked for. Maybe doing extra chores hoping someone would notice or dropping hints for weeks instead of just telling someone what you wanted for your birthday. What happened?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Romans 4:1-5. Paul talks about Abraham, and how Abraham was justified – by faith and not by works. What does it mean that righteousness is “credited” rather than “earned?”

Read Genesis 15:1-6.

Abraham had kept no law (the OT Law hadn't even been given yet!), rendered no service and performed no religious ritual that earned him credit. But **Genesis 15:6** says that “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Paul draws a sharp contrast – a worker receives wages as an obligation; they are owed it. Someone who trusts God through faith receives righteousness as a gift (grace).

Why does this distinction matter for how we see ourselves before God? Have you ever treated God like He owed you something, like a wage, rather than receiving a gift?

Question 2: Read Romans 4:6-8. Paul in these verses quotes a Psalm of David, highlighting the gift of forgiveness. Paul brings in David as a second witness (Psalm 32:1–2), a man whose moral failures were profound. David's blessedness isn't tied to his record but to God's forgiveness: *“Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”* Two very different men (Abraham and David), one verdict: righteousness by faith.

Is there an area of your life where you find it hard to believe God's grace covers it? Why do you think it's important that the Psalmist focuses on God's forgiveness when talking about his sin?

Read Psalm 32:3 – How do we keep quiet about our sin, and see the negative effects of it in our life? How does this verse help you see the need to acknowledge your sin before God and the good that comes from that?

Question 3: Read Romans 4:9-12. Paul points to Abraham as proof that faith, not religious practice, is the basis of God's acceptance. In these verses Paul talks specifically about Abraham's circumcision. He talks about the timing of Abraham's circumcision. The timeline is decisive. Circumcision (Genesis 17) came roughly **14 years after** Abraham's justification in Genesis 15. This means the sign (circumcision) followed the reality (righteousness by faith). **It did not produce it!** Abraham is therefore the spiritual father of *all* who believe, whether circumcised or not (v. 11-12).

What sort of works or religious practices do you tend to think gives you a better standing before God? Baptism? Communion? Prayer? Church attendance? So, what's the point of these rituals, traditions, or disciplines we practice?

Application

1. Are you walking by faith? (Romans 1:17)
2. Who is following in your footsteps of faith? (1 Cor. 11:1)
3. We are not saved by works, but we are saved for works. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?