



ROMANS CHAPTER 4 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- If you woke up one day and found out that 10 million dollars had been deposited into your bank account and you got to keep it, no questions asked, what's the first thing you would do?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.
- Please use your own style, voice, and approach in preparing for leading your life group. Most importantly, take a few minutes to pray over the time together with your group and pray over each group member by name.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (Romans 4:1-25)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Romans 4:1-8

- Why does Paul use Abraham as an example of someone who was justified through his faith and not his performance?

- Abraham was and is considered a hero of faith and a great man, but Paul wants his readers to understand that even Abraham was just a human being. And, because he was a human being, he messed up and sinned just like each of us do every single day. So, Paul is making the case that Abraham was made right in the sight of God not because he had perfect faith and was a perfect man. Rather, it was because a perfect God filled in the gaps of Abraham's imperfect faith.
- What does this phrase "counted as righteousness" mean and why is it important for us to understand today?
 - This phrase "counted as righteousness" means that God gave Abraham something he otherwise could not obtain on his own. It has the meaning of someone's account being credited through a gift not because they earned it. This is important for us to know because we can't and don't earn God's love and salvation. We are called to receive and embrace what God is offering and giving to us.
 - In what ways do you struggle to receive and embrace God's love? Why?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Romans 4:9-12

- Why does Paul even find it necessary to bring up and discuss circumcision and uncircumcision?
 - For the Jews, the act of physical circumcision (which was commanded by God under the Old Covenant as His sign that the Jews belonged to Him) was something that they began to misunderstand as the act which declared them right in the sight of God. God never intended for any physical actions or performances to make individuals right in His sight. Paul is stressing and emphasizing that it is God's goodness, graciousness, and mercy that declares you and me right in His sight. It is only through the blood of Jesus Christ that this happens.
 - Why do you think it's so easy for people to define themselves based upon their performances? How can you and I avoid doing this?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Romans 4:13-25

- Reread verse 16. How do you intentionally and purposefully position your life to rest on the grace of God?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- Reread verses 17-18 and consider the following questions when looking at Abraham's life.
 - What things in your life do not currently exist do you need to believe that God can call into existence?
 - What do you need to believe and hope for against all odds that say God can't and won't do it?
 - These are perspective an opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Romans chapter 5)

ROMANS CHAPTER 4 (STUDENT)

Discussion Starter

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Romans 4:1-8

- Why does Paul use Abraham as an example of someone who was justified through his faith and not his performance?
- What does this phrase "counted as righteousness" mean and why is it important for us to understand today?
 - In what ways do you struggle to receive and embrace God's love? Why?

Romans 4:9-12

- Why does Paul even find it necessary to bring up and discuss circumcision and uncircumcision?
 - Why do you think it's so easy for people to define themselves based upon their performances? How can you and I avoid doing this?

Romans 4:13-25

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Final Application

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- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?