



Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for July 18, 2021

Released on Monday, July 12, 2021

"The Faith of Abraham"

Lesson Text: Romans 4:1-12

Background Scripture: Romans 4

Memory Verse: "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness" (Romans 4:3b).

Romans 4:1-12 (KJV)

1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?

2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

9 Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

10 How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.

11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

12 And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

KEY CONCEPT

Abraham is an example of faith to all believers.

MESSAGES TO CHILDREN

1. God made promises to Abraham.
2. Abraham trusted and believed God.
3. Because of his faith, God accepted Abraham.

For Today's Story Lesson, you will need your Bible and pictures to represent the Apostle Paul, Abraham, and King David. *Note: pictures should be representative of the time being studied.*

WORDS TO KNOW AND EXPLAIN

Abraham – the father of the Jewish nation

Covenant – a promise or an agreement

David – the most popular king in Israel who wrote most of the psalms

Faith – to trust someone (God); belief and trust that the Bible is true

Justification – to be accepted by God and counted as righteous

Righteous – right actions; being right with God

TEACHER'S NOTES

During Paul's ministry, a key issue concerned the role of the Jewish law for Christians who were not of Jewish descent. At the time Paul wrote his letter to the Romans, the famous Jerusalem Council had already recognized that Gentiles would be welcomed into the church without being required to keep the Law of Moses (Acts 15:7–11, 19–21, 28, 29). This included forgoing circumcision, which symbolized the entire law for Jews (see Romans 4:9).

Circumcision was perhaps the most honored of all Jewish traditions. The rite began with Abraham, the forefather of the entire nation of Israel (see Romans 4:1). Jewish men had proudly borne the mark of circumcision for hundreds of years, a physical sign of their separation from Gentiles. The traditional adversaries of Israel were called uncircumcised, an epithet spit out in scorn (example: Jeremiah 9:26; see Romans 4:9). Any foreigner who wanted to be accepted into Israel had to be circumcised (Exodus 12:48). To be an uncircumcised Jewish man was to be expelled from Israel and thus *not* part of the nation (Genesis 17:14).

Gentiles did not welcome the idea of circumcision as a condition for worshipping God. The physical act of circumcision was culturally repugnant and physically painful. In the Roman world, this hesitation resulted in Gentiles who were attracted to Judaism to be identified as "devout" (Acts 17:4, 17) in contrast with a "proselyte" (Matthew 23:15), who converted fully.

The "devout" chose to honor the Lord. However, they were excluded from full participation in the temple or synagogues because the men in these families had not undergone circumcision. Peter's encounter with Cornelius, during which time the Holy Spirit came to a group of Gentiles (Acts 10:44–48), was the beginning of a new understanding about what would and would not be required in the church (11:15–18).

In part, the discussion of what Jewish customs to retain in the church—and require of Gentiles—was a discussion about the relationship between faith and works. Though these two concepts can be held in tension, most Christians understand that works flow out of faith (James 2:14–26). We are “saved through faith, ... not by works” (Ephesians 2:8, 9). The work that we do for Christ is faith manifesting itself in our lives (2:10); it is not an attempt to save ourselves. Paul’s discussion of Abraham considered in our lesson text is an example of this fact.

Paul ended Romans 3 with a crescendo that emphasized that people can be pronounced righteous only through faith (Romans 3:30). But this raises an important question: What about the ancient and hallowed Jewish law, the law that Moses received from God himself?

TODAY’S STORY LESSON

(Show Paul.) The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the church in Rome. Paul told this church of Jewish believers in Jesus about a man named **Abraham**, who was an example to all believers today. (Show Abraham.)

Abraham was the father (an ancestor) of the Jewish people. He was a man of great **faith!** God made promises to Abraham and Abraham trusted (believed) God would keep His promises! Ask students, do you trust God when you pray? Do you trust your parents when they promise you something? Of course you do!

God was happy with Abraham, and He accepted Abraham because of his faith in Him. This is what the Bible calls **justification**. God saw Abraham as **righteous** because he really trusted God!

God loved Abraham not because he was a good person or because he did good deeds (helped people). No, God loved, forgave, and accepted Abraham because of his strong faith! Do you have strong faith? Do you really trust God, even if you may be scared when learning new things, or even scared when moving to new places?

(Show Bible). Paul also reminded God’s people about how King **David** talked about forgiveness. (Show David.) David had also been forgiven by God, and David knew that it was a blessing (God’s grace) to have your sins forgiven. Have you ever been forgiven for doing something you weren’t supposed to do? Yes, Jesus also forgives us when we are truly sorry for our sins.

Many years ago, God decided to make a special **covenant** (promise) with all of the men in Abraham’s family. God wanted to show love to them, and He wanted them to love and obey Him. So God made a special ceremony for the Jewish men of their families because of their faith in God. This ceremony was only a sign that they were God’s people. Many people thought that this ceremony made the Jewish people more special to God. But it didn’t.

No, this ceremony was only a sign that they would obey God. God always accepts anyone who has faith in Him, not just the Jewish people. Our righteousness (holiness) before God is because of our faith in Him and not because of where we come from, what we do for God,

or any special ceremony to honor God. God looks at our hearts to see if we love and obey Him! Do you love and obey God like Abraham, David and Paul did, with all of your heart?

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

What is faith? (*Allow time for responses and discussion.*) Faith is strong belief in something or someone (God). It means that you trust that something will happen. Trust that God will help you and your family and always keep His promises! (Show, read and explain Bible example: Exodus 20:12).

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE

**“Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness”
(Romans 4:3b).**

God made promises to Abraham. God promised to bless Abraham and to make his family a great nation! Abraham trusted and believed God. Abraham was counted righteous because he had faith in God.

PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, thank You for Your love that saves us. Help us to be like Abraham and trust and believe Your promises, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week’s lesson is “**Jesus Died for My Sins**” and explains that we are forgiven and have peace with God because Jesus died in our place. Study Romans 5:1-11.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

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Jesus Is All Ministries

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WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

"The Faith of Abraham"

(Romans 4:1-12)

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