

ONE

SIXTEEN

Community Group Discussion Guide

March 23, 2014

The Gospel in Romans
Week 5 - Abraham
Romans 4:1-25

Introduction

The book of Romans is brilliant apologetic for the Christian faith. Know this book well and it will equip you to share your faith in Christ. The title for this series is taken from Paul's personal declaration of confidence in the gospel.

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.

Romans 1:16

Before answering the following questions, the best thing to do is read Romans 3:21-31 and Romans 4:1-25

Questions for Study

1. What do you think makes it hard for people to believe we're made right with God apart from what we do and don't do? What makes grace such a hard concept to simply accept?
2. Based on your answer to the above, what makes 'religion' (what we do to earn eternal life with God in heaven) so popular with people?
3. What are some practical ways we can help good moral people see that their works, good as they might be, are not good enough to erase their sin which separates them from God?
4. Do a quick review of Romans 3:21-26. According to these six verses what is the basis for salvation?
5. Why do you think Paul points to Abraham and David as examples of two men who trusted in God's grace instead of their good works to receive God's forgiveness and eternal life? Why is this a good example for us to follow in sharing our faith with others?
6. What is the background to the statement made about Abraham in Romans 4:3? (To answer this question, read Genesis 12:1-3 and Genesis 15:1-6.)
7. What is the background to what Paul writes about David in Romans 4:6-8? (To answer this question read 2 Samuel, chapters 11 and 12 and Psalm 32.)
8. Why does Paul bring up circumcision and the Old Testament law? How does he use both to support his argument that salvation is by faith and not by works?
9. How can we apply Romans 4:18-25 to our own lives?
10. Since it's true that the righteousness of God is credited to our account simply by faith and because of this, no sin is credited to our account, how should we view ourselves? How does how we view ourselves affect how we live our lives on a daily basis?