

MESSAGE REVIEW

The message of the Bible is that we are saved by faith. We don't earn a right standing with God because of how hard we work. Righteousness is counted to us because of our faith in God who forgives sinners. Nothing is too hard for Him. This gives us a hope that is greater than how we feel or things appear – a hope that anchors our identity, security, and assurance. We're welcomed into the family of God, not by what we've done but by what Jesus did on our behalf.

WARM UP QUESTION

Who has been a hero in the faith to you?

- Review what you've learned so far in Romans 1-3. What has Paul's main argument been?
- **Read <u>Romans 4:1-8</u>.** What two Old Testament heroes does Paul introduce into his argument and why? How do they help him make his point? How does the analogy he uses in verses 4-5 drive home his point further? Would you rather earn a reward or receive a gift? How does that play out in your faith?
- Read <u>Romans 4:9-12</u>. When was Abraham counted as righteous by God (you can refer back to Genesis 15-17 for more chronology)? What was the point of circumcision? Who, therefore, is Abraham the spiritual father of and what does it mean that he was a spiritual father?
- Read <u>Romans 4:13-19</u>. What promise is Paul referring to in verses 13-16 and who does he say will receive the promise? What kind of God had Abraham placed his faith in (verse 17)? How do you think his own helplessness to bring about God's promises strengthened his faith? Has seeing God move in a seemingly helpless situation ever strengthened your faith?
- Read Romans 4:20-25. What words stand out to you about Abraham's faith? How are you and I counted righteous (verse 24) and what are the two components necessary for that saving work (verse 25)? Do you ever forget one of those two components or emphasize one over the other? Why are they both equally important? Set aside time as a group in the near future to do a share-your faith experience using the key components of the gospel.

RESPOND

What have you learned about God from His Word? How is He asking you to apply it to your life? When will you apply it?

Encourage group members to read Daily Bible Reading on the church app or have it delivered to their inbox daily. Subscribe at <u>tpcc.org/dbr</u>. Use your group chat to check in on thoughts about these throughout the week!