

romans

a life of faith



“ABOUT FAITH”

SPEAKER: ALEX LESSLER

DATE: AUG 7, 2022

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:

ROMANS 4:4-25

Addressing a mixed community of Gentile and Jewish believers, Paul seeks to offer them clarity. Some of the churches in Rome leaned towards a Gospel of good works: be good and God will bless you. Others, leaned into tradition and religious ritual as a means to remain in right relationship with God.

The Apostle offers them a third way, one that is central to God's original plan. It's the way of faith. Beginning with Abraham and Sarah, Paul shows how faith — trust in God's trustworthiness — has always been the key to right relationship with him. Throughout his message, Pastor Alex helps us understand how ancient ideas like salvation, faith, and justification impact our lives today.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Turn to your neighbor and share one highpoint and one low point, from the past week.
2. Last week, Soong-Chan Rah talked about the value of lament. What thought was new?
3. This week, Alex opened with the promise of Matthew 11:28-30. How did this bless you?
4. When you are feeling depleted, how do you recharge?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. In what way did the Jews find their identity in the person of Abraham?
2. What is Paul's point regarding Abraham's God and the person Jesus?
3. What was the significance of the rite of circumcision, for the Jew?
4. What was the unique role of the Jewish nation, in God's salvation plan?
5. What salvation truth is illustrated by the life of Abraham and Sarah?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. How do different people groups define the person of Jesus, today?
2. What are some good works or rituals people engage in, hoping for merit?
3. How is “against hope, believing” different from superstition or wishful thinking?
4. How does faith as “journey vs destination” challenge a culture of immediacy?
5. Is “confident expectation of good” a health and wealth gospel? Explain.?

CONTINUED:

Look In: These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. What is your own view regarding the person of Jesus?
2. Have you ever been on the treadmill of trying to earn God's favor? How did it feel?
3. Where are you at in the life of faith? Just beginning? Many miles/ years traveled?
4. What are some of the obstacles to faith that you have faced? That you face, now?
5. How does God's grace, apart from what you do, encourage you, in this journey?

LIVE IT OUT: These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Take steps to get any questions you have regarding the person of Jesus answered.
2. With confidence, relish and respond to God's favor, living and engaging, this week.