



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 59

## **ABRAHAM: FATHER TO ALL BY FAITH**

*Abraham is the father of all who place their trust in Christ.*



**MONDAY**

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### **THE STORY: ROMANS 4:1-8**

Abraham is our example of faith. Paul uses Abraham, the patriarch of the Jewish faith, to demonstrate that our standing of righteousness before God has always been by faith and not by works. Paul quotes Genesis 15:4, where, after God told Abraham that his children would be as numerous as the stars, the text simply reads, “Abraham believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.” Abraham did no work to earn his righteousness. He simply believed God’s promise. Righteousness, was God’s free gift.

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

Is there any work we need to do to become righteous before God? (No. There is no work we could do. We need to simply follow Abraham’s example and believe.)

Abraham believed God’s promise. Who do we believe? (We are called to believe in Jesus Christ and His saving work on the cross.)

### **PRAY:**

Ask God to help each member of your family come to saving faith in Jesus.



## TUESDAY

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### **THE STORY: ROMANS 4:9-17**

Abraham is the father of all who would believe. The Jews would have believed Abraham to be their father. They even called themselves the “children of Abraham.” They also believed that their right standing before God was marked by circumcision. In this text, Paul explodes their thinking. Abraham was counted as righteous before circumcision. Abraham, Paul informs us, is the father of all those who have faith, whether they are circumcised or not. Abraham is the father of all who believe! Later, in the Book of Romans, Paul goes a step further and tells us that God’s children are those who are children of the promise by faith, not those who are the natural children of Abraham (Romans 9:7,8). Abraham is not just the father of the Jews, but the father of “many nations” (Romans 4:17).

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

How can Abraham be the father of many different nations? (The descendants of Abraham’s natural children became several nations in the ancient world, especially Israel. But more importantly, Abraham is the father of those who believe because they have the faith of Abraham.)

What do we need to do to become members of God’s family? (We need to believe the gospel message, putting our faith in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.)

What does God give us when we believe? (God credits the righteousness of Christ to our account.)

### **PRAY:**

Thank God for His free gift of grace available to us through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.



**WEDNESDAY**  
**WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?**

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**THE STORY: ROMANS 4:23-25**

Paul directly ties the faith of Abraham trusting in God's future redemption with our trusting in God's past work on the cross and through the Resurrection. Abraham's faith was "counted to him as righteousness" (Romans 4:22). In the same way, "It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Romans 4:24,25).

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What does it mean to have something credited to you? ("Credited" means "added". If you return something to the store, the store will give you credit for what you returned and add back the money to your account.)

What does Paul say is special about the words written about Abraham, "It was credited to him"? (Paul tells us that they were also written for all of us who would later believe in Jesus).

**PRAY:**

Thank God for His mercy in crediting our account with the work of His Son Jesus.



**THURSDAY**

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**THE STORY: ROMANS 4:18-25**

Abraham believed against all hope. He trusted God's plan. This is a wonderful

picture of our need to trust in Christ. Abraham's body was as good as dead just as we are dead, in our sins. There was nothing Abraham could do in his own strength to renew his own body so that he could have children. Likewise, there is nothing we can do to work our way to heaven. If Abraham was going to have children, it would have to be the work of God. If we are to be saved, it can only come by the work of God. Abraham believed that God had the power to do what He promised, and we must believe that God has the power to fulfill His promise of salvation through the work of Jesus on the cross. Like Abraham, we have no other hope. We are hopelessly lost in our sin apart from Jesus.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

How did Abraham demonstrate his faith? (Abraham needed to believe God's promise that he would have many children even though he was too old to have children.)

What does our faith look like? (We need to believe that Jesus suffered, died, and rose again for our sins even though we did not witness these events. We need to trust the Scriptures by faith. Jesus said, "Blessed are they who have not seen but yet they believe" [see John 20:29].)

**PRAY:**

Ask God to help each member of your family to believe in the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus as payment for sin.



**FRIDAY  
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

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**THE STORY: ISAIAH 53:10**

Jesus is the Lamb of God, the guilt offering that takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). God presented Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement through His blood (Romans 3:25). Jesus did not remain crushed. On the third day He rose again, and the will of the Lord in bringing many to salvation was accomplished.

This wonderful verse, in the midst of Isaiah's prophetic look at the Crucifixion, once again opens our eyes to see the willingness of the Father to crush His Son for our redemption.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What does this verse tell us about God's plan to offer up Jesus? (This verse tells us that it was the Lord's will or God's plan. John 3:16 tells us that God gave up Jesus out of love for us.)

What does it mean when it says His life is a guilt offering? (In the Old Testament an animal would be killed as a guilt offering or sacrifice for a person's sins. Those sacrifices never actually took away sin. Jesus was crushed by God as a sacrifice that did take away sins. Jesus' sacrifice paid the price for all the sins of those who believe.)

**PRAY:**

Thank God for lovingly giving up His only Son as a guilt offering for us that our sins might be forgiven.