

Romans 4 & 5: The One About Getting Saved
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Reflection & Discussion Questions

We are saved by grace through faith

Abraham trusted/believed/had faith and because of that he was declared righteous/forgiven/justified with God.

Read and discuss Romans 4:1-8 (NIV)

4 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³ What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

4 Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. ⁶ David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

7 “Blessed are those

whose transgressions are forgiven,

whose sins are covered.

8 Blessed is the one

whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”

*Have you had multiple experiences you've prayed to become a Christian? If so, what was behind feeling you needed to do it again?

*What other debates about becoming saved are you aware of?

*What is Paul saying about our faith in this passage?

Faith is learning to trust His promise and when we do it will change our actions

Read and discuss James 2:21-24 (NIV)

21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

*Look at these two passages together and discuss how they compare. What does Paul seem to be saying? What does James seem to be saying?

*What is the relationship between faith and actions?

The Bible is the story of humans discovering God still seeks and saves when we are at our worst

Read and discuss Romans 5:1-8 (NIV)

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering

produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. ⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*What does this say about when our justification occurs? Is this typically how we think of our 'moment' of salvation?

*What does this passage reveal to you about your brokenness and how does it point you toward Him?

*What are the implications of Jesus dying for us while we were sinners?

'What would I do, and how would I live if I really believe Jesus' grace for me is all true?'

The thing that has the most impact on us and the world is really believing, trusting the promise of God's love and grace.

*Why would this be a good question to preoccupy our lives?

*How do we keep this in the forefront of our mind? How can we help each other to keep asking this question and living out the answers?

*What are the ways your faith has deepened, changed, expanded as you've sunk more deeply into belief?