

**DISCUSSION GUIDE: Romans 4:18-21**  
**June 25, 2017**

Continuing into Romans 4:16-21, Paul shows us the importance of justification by faith alone and the necessity of God's grace. Without His grace, we are helpless! It can be tempting to think that our salvation rests on how strong our faith is, but our faith rests on the power of God and his grace towards us. We especially see this truth in the life of Abraham.

1. Abraham is regarded as a man of great faith and character. But yet, his life also included some regrettable moments. (Read Genesis 16:1-6 where he goes along with Sarah's plan. Remember he also lied on two occasions about Sarah being his wife)

—How does considering Abraham's frailty encourage you?

—How do we mesh this account of Abraham's failings with the words of Romans 4:18-21 that so highly commends Abraham's faith? How should this encourage us?

2. Not only do we look back at Abraham as a man of great faith, but Paul does as well! Based off of Paul's argument up to this point, we shouldn't conclude that Abraham is looked on with favor because of his works, but because of God's grace towards him.

—Can you think of specific times where people told you your walk with God impacted them, even when you were stumbling?

—What does this tell us about God and his grace? Is this comforting?

3. Speaking of Abraham, Paul says "in hope, he believed against hope" referencing Abraham having hope in God to have offspring, even though it seemed impossible.

—Do you often struggle to think that God can do what he says he can do?

—What are some specific ways you struggle with this?

—Spend some time praying with your group for God to be glorified in the seemingly hopeless situations you may be facing.