The Solid Rock on Which We Stand: "Abraham's Amazing Faith"

Romans 4:13-25

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The Big Idea:

Saving faith is based on God's Son, God's Word, and God's power. (Romans 4: 13-25)

<u>What Didn't Make Abraham's Faith Amazing</u>

1. The OBSERVANCE of the law didn't make Abraham's faith amazing. (Romans 4:13-16)

<u>What Made Abraham's Faith Amazing</u>

1. The OBJECT of Abraham's faith made it amazing. (Romans 4:17)

2. The OBSTACLES to Abraham's faith were small in comparison to the object of his faith. (Romans 4:18-20)

3. The OBJECTIVES of Abraham's faith were that his great God was glorified and that he was counted as righteous. (Romans 4:20-22)

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Romans 4:13-25(study guide)

Read Romans 4:13-25

1. In Luke 7:1-10 and Mark 6:1-6, Jesus "marvels" twice—once at great faith, once at unbelief. What do these two reactions teach us about what amazes Jesus?

2. Romans 4:13-16 says the promise did not come through the law but through "the righteousness of faith." Why couldn't Abraham's good works have been the basis of God's promise to him?
Read Galatians 3:17 alongside this passage. Discuss why the 430-year gap between the promise and the law matters. How does remembering that justification is unconditional change the way you view your own effort and performance before God?

3. Romans 4:17 says Abraham believed in the God "who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist." Why does Pastor Dave's sermon insist that the object of faith matters more than the amount of faith?

4. In Romans 4:18-20, Abraham faced two obstacles—his own body "as good as dead" and Sarah's barren womb—yet he did not waver. What specific promise of God in your life feels "too good to be true," and how does Abraham's example challenge the way you're handling that doubt?
Discuss how Abraham weighed "the human impossibility of having a child against the divine impossibility of God breaking His Word" and decided impossibility was on the side of unbelief, not faith.

5. Romans 4:20-22 says Abraham "grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God" and was "fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised." How do verses 23-25 show that this same faith is available to us today, and what would it look like for your group to grow "strong" rather than weak in faith this week?
Read Romans 4:23-25 aloud together. Discuss practically: what's one promise of God your group needs to stop doubting and start resting in?