

Bible Study Guide: Abraham Believed God

Scripture: Galatians 3:6

"Just as Abraham 'believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.'" (ESV)

Theme

Righteousness comes through faith.

Study Objective

To understand that Abraham was declared righteous because he believed God, showing that righteousness has always been received by faith rather than earned through works or obedience to the law.

Background

In Galatians 3, Paul reminds believers that God's plan of salvation has always been based on faith. To make his point, he points to Abraham—the father of the Jewish nation. Before the Law of Moses was given, Abraham trusted God's promises, and God counted his faith as righteousness. This

demonstrates that justification by faith is not a new idea but God's plan from the beginning.

Key Truth

God declares people righteous when they place their faith in Him. Faith, not human effort, is the basis of a right relationship with God.

Cross References

Genesis 15:6

"Abram believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness."

Truth: Abraham's righteousness was credited because of his faith.

Romans 4:3–5

Paul explains that righteousness is credited by faith, not earned through works.

Hebrews 11:8–10

Abraham demonstrated his faith by obeying God's call, trusting His promises even without seeing the outcome.

Ephesians 2:8–9

Salvation is by grace through faith, not by works.

James 2:21–23

Abraham's actions demonstrated the reality of his faith. Genuine faith produces obedience.

Observation Questions

1. What did Abraham do according to Galatians 3:6?
 2. What was credited to Abraham because of his faith?
 3. What does the word "counted" or "credited" mean in this verse?
 4. How does Paul use Abraham as an example?
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Interpretation

Paul uses Abraham to show that faith has always been the way people are made right with God. Abraham did not earn righteousness through

keeping the Law, because the Law had not yet been given. Instead, he believed God's promises, and God credited righteousness to him. This teaches that salvation is God's gracious gift, received through faith.

Application

Ask yourself:

- Am I trusting in Christ alone for my righteousness?
- Do I rely on my own efforts to earn God's approval?
- Does my life demonstrate genuine faith through obedience?
- How can I grow in trusting God's promises?

Practical applications:

- Place your confidence in Christ rather than your own performance.
- Trust God's promises even when circumstances are uncertain.
- Let your faith be reflected in faithful obedience.
- Encourage others that righteousness comes through faith in Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is Abraham an important example of faith?
2. What is the difference between faith and works?
3. How does faith change the way we relate to God?
4. Why can't righteousness be earned?
5. What are some ways you can demonstrate faith in your daily life?

Key Lessons

- Abraham was declared righteous because he believed God.
- Righteousness is credited by God's grace through faith.
- Salvation has always been based on faith, not works.
- Genuine faith leads to obedience.
- Every believer is invited to trust God's promises as Abraham did.

Memory Verse

Galatians 3:6

"Just as Abraham 'believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.'"

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for showing through Abraham that righteousness comes by faith. Help me to trust You completely and to rely on Your grace rather than my own efforts. Strengthen my faith so that my life reflects confidence in Your promises and obedience to Your Word. Thank You for declaring me righteous through faith in Jesus Christ. In His name, Amen.

Takeaway

Like Abraham, we are made right with God not by what we do, but by trusting in what God has promised. Faith receives God's gift of righteousness, and true faith is reflected in a life of obedience.