Edify Small Group Handout - 11/8/2026
The Father of All Who Believe | Romans 4:9–12

1. Opening: Read & Reflect:

Begin by reading Romans 4:9–12 together. Have someone briefly summarize Sunday's sermon.

a. **Main Point**: Faith—and faith alone—fully justifies and unites one to the people of God.
b. **Grand Points of the text**:

   i. The Facts: Abraham was justified before he was circumcised (vv. 9–11a).

   ii. The Purpose: Abraham is the father of all who believe, Jew or Gentile (vv. 11b–12).

c. Opening question: What stood out to you, challenged you, or encouraged you from Sunday's sermon?

2. LEARN:What does this section of scripture teach us?

a. The Facts — Abraham Was Justified Before He Was Circumcised

1. Why does Paul make such a point of establishing that Abraham was justified before he was circumcised? What does this teach us about salvation?

2. Circumcision was a God-given sign and seal of the righteousness Abraham already possessed by faith. Why is it important to distinguish between the sign and the reality it represents?

3. What are some ways Christians today might unintentionally place their confidence in religious practices, family heritage, or outward obedience rather than Christ alone?

4. Pastor John asked what an external religious rite could possibly add if God has already justified us. How should this truth shape our understanding of assurance and our relationship with God?

Scripture: Genesis 15:6-18; Genesis 17:10–11; Romans 2:28-29

b. The Purpose — Abraham Is the Father of All Who Believe

1. What is the difference between acknowledging that God exists and having the kind of saving faith Paul describes? What does it mean to walk in the footsteps of Abraham's faith?

2. Abraham trusted God's promises before seeing their fulfillment. How is our faith today similar to Abraham's, and how is it different now that Christ has come?

3. Why is it significant that Abraham is described as the father of all who believe, rather than simply an example for us to follow?

4. How does understanding that believers from every nation and background belong to one spiritual family challenge the way we think about identity, heritage, and belonging?

5. Pastor John emphasized that God's people are defined by faith rather than ethnicity. How should this truth influence the way we view and treat fellow believers whose backgrounds, cultures, or experiences differ from our own?

Scripture: Galatians 3:7; 2 Corinthians 1:20

c. Applications: How do we apply these teachings in a genuine fashion?

1. What does it practically mean to treat fellow believers as family rather than simply people we attend church with?

2. Have you ever experienced a strong sense of belonging within the church? What contributed to that experience? Conversely, what can make someone feel like an outsider even among fellow believers?

3. If our unity is grounded in Christ rather than shared interests, personalities, or backgrounds, how should that affect the way we build relationships within our church?

4. How does knowing that we belong to God's family change the way we think about our responsibilities toward one another

Scripture: Galatians 3:26–29 and Ephesians 2:11–22.

Homework/contemplation/meditation:

1. Where am I tempted to find my identity or assurance outside of Christ?
2. Do I genuinely view other believers as brothers and sisters, or primarily as people with whom I share a Sunday morning?
3. Is there someone in our church family I could intentionally encourage, welcome, or get to know better this week?