

Abraham's Example

Romans 4:1-25

July Memory Verse: Psalm 34:14 "Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."

NOTE: What a simple, yet powerful reminder to kids *and* to us! As believers, we are to turn from evil and do good. We are to seek and pursue peace. Try to weave this verse into your everyday life this month.

Opening Activity: Choose one or two that seem most appropriate for your children to start the lesson. Feel free to work them into the lesson if your kids start to get antsy and lose their attention span... like ours do!

- Practice saying VERSE together, along with other verses you have memorized. Say it in funny voices, say it as loudly or as quietly as you can, say it while standing on one foot. If your kids are writers, have them write it down on a pretty or cool piece of paper to hand in their bedroom.
- Pray together as a family for any needs you or others have. Remember to thank Him for His blessings and what He is doing in your lives, too.
- Make a simple promise to your kids that you can fulfill before starting the lesson. For example: *I promise that I will give you a donut.* Ask, "Do you think I'll really give you a donut?" If they say yes, give them one – their faith is what earned them a donut, not something they did. Talk about how the Bible says we are declared right before God because of our faith in Him.
- If your kids aren't familiar with Abraham, give a quick recap:
 - Abraham was an old man who believed in God. He didn't have any kids.
 - God promised Abraham that he would have more kids than he can count.
 - Even though he was very old, Abraham believed God!
 - God gave Abraham a son named Isaac.
 - Because he trusted God, God declared him righteous, or good.

Today's lesson focuses again on how justification through faith. Paul presents Abraham as an example of being justified by faith. God had promised Abraham that he would have countless offspring who are beloved by God. Because Abraham believed God, his righteousness is through faith rather than works. Even if we do all the right things, if we don't fear God and trust in Him, those acts are all for naught.

Lesson: The word of God never returns void (Isaiah 55:11), so rest assured that regardless of how well you think the lesson goes, God will accomplish His purposes in it. Our job is to teach His word regularly and faithfully, trusting that He will take care of the rest.

- Provide a quick recap to your kids: "We are still learning from the book of Romans about how to live in a way that pleases God. Romans was written by a missionary named Paul who loved Jesus and wanted others to love Him, too. We have learned that we are called to obey, to belong to Jesus, and to be holy. We've talked a lot about making righteous (or good) choices instead of sinful (or bad) choices. God rewards righteous choices and punishes sinful choices. Obeying in our hearts matters more than obeying with our hands. It is our faith in God that makes us righteous, not the things we do."
- Introduce the passage: "Today, we are reading Romans 4:1-25. Let's put on our listening ears as we read about how a man named Abraham was justified by faith in God because He believed a promise God made."
- Read Romans 4:1-25, stopping to repeat verses, explain words, and ask questions, as appropriate for your kiddos. Focus especially on verse ##.
 - *Key concept:* We are righteous when we have faith in God, not when we follow the rules. Consider reading the passage in The Message or NIV, which are often the easiest to understand. Countless versions of the Bible can be found online at www.biblegateway.com.
- Review the passage:
 - Vs. 1-3: Abraham believed the promise God made, so he was declared righteous.
 - Vs. 4-8: When we work, we get paid with money. But when we trust in God, we are called righteous.
 - Vs. 9-12: Anyone can be declared righteous who believes in God!
 - Vs. 13-15: We aren't declared righteous because of following the rules.
 - Vs. 16-17: We are declared righteous because of our faith.

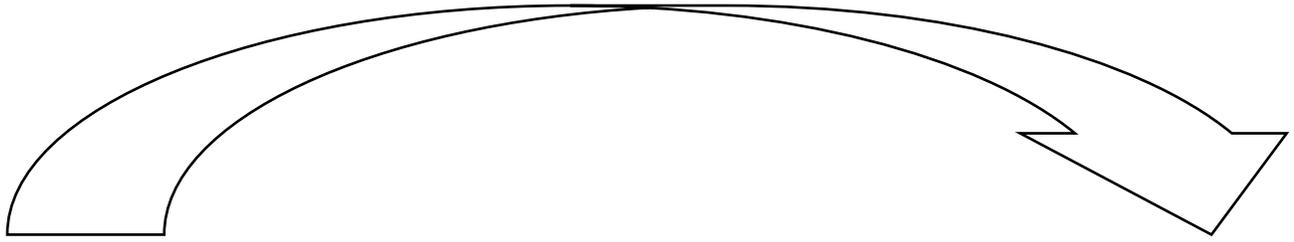
- Vs. 18-22: Even though it seemed like Abraham shouldn't believe God's promise – even though God's promise looked impossible! – Abraham believed Him.
- Vs. 23-25: So what should we have faith in God about? We believe that Jesus is God's Son, who willingly died on the cross for our sins so that we could be forgiven.
- Connect the Gospel: "Let's talk about that some more. God created everything, including people. But the first people God made, Adam and Eve, chose to disobey God. Now, everyone in the world is born with a sin nature. That means we all sin. The punishment of sin is death and separation from God forever. But God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth so that we don't have to be punished forever for our sins. Jesus lived a sinless life. He was put to death on a cross, taking the punishment for our sin and guilt. He rose to life three days later, showing that He won over sin and death. If we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, He will. Then we can know Him, be part of His family, serve Him, and spend eternity with Him in heaven. Eternal life with Jesus is our best reward for following and obeying Him. If we have faith in Jesus, we are declared righteous."
- "Our righteousness (or goodness before God) isn't because of something we've done. It's all because of what Jesus did on the cross. All we have to do is believe in Jesus and ask Him to forgive our sins."
- Pray, then do some of the activities below, as appropriate for your family.

Activity Ideas: These are designed for use at the end of the lesson or throughout it to break up the "sitting still" times.

- Print the following (or create your own) memory verse coloring sheet. Display it in a prominent place so that you can practice it throughout the week.
SUPPLIES NEEDED: Printer, paper, crayons/markers/colored pencils
- Act out God's promise to Abraham (reference Genesis 15). Have one child dress up like an old man (think bathrobe, fake beard (you could make one out of white paper and string), a stick for a staff, etc. Read through Genesis 15, acting it out as you go. Talk about how Abraham chose to believe what God said and, as a result, was blessed and declared righteous.
SUPPLIES NEEDED: "old man" dress up clothes and accessories
- Make an acrostic using the words "RIGHTEOUS" or "FAITH." Help your kids come up with words or phrases for each letter. For example:
 - R – Regardless of what I do,
 - I – I am declared righteous by
 - G – God for
 - H – How I have faith in Him.
 - T – That's great news!
 - E – Everyone can be righteous
 - O – Owing to Christ's death on the cross, for all of
 - U – Us to be
 - S – Saved!

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Paper, pencil, items to decorate the acrostic.

Psalm 34:14



Turn from evil
& do good;
seek peace &
pursue it.

