

## Book Study #6 ROMANS

## Rom. 4:1-25 Abraham justified by Faith

### Before We Begin...

1. As a child, who were your "heroes," people you looked up to and wanted to be like? Who did you trust?
2. Who is the one person you can always rely on to keep their promises?

### Exploration... Discovery... Revelation...

3. This passage assumes that the reader is familiar with Abraham and the promises God made to him. In order to better understand what Paul is saying, look up these verses and record those promises.

Genesis 12:2-3

Genesis 15:4-5

Genesis 17:4-8



4. What arguments does Paul use to show that Abraham was justified by faith?

4:3-5

4:9-11

4:9-11

5. Whose "father" did the Jews consider Abraham to be? Whose "father" is he? (vv. 11-12, 16-17).

6. What made it difficult for Abraham to trust in God's promise? What truth about God helped him to persevere in faith?

7. When is it hard for you to trust God? What's the difference between "trusting" God and "asking" God?

## Jewish Origins of Brit Milah or Circumcision

Brit milah, which means "covenant of circumcision," is a Jewish ritual performed on a baby boy eight days after he is born. It involves the removal of the foreskin from the penis by a mohel, who is a person that has been trained to safely perform the procedure. The brit milah is also known as a "bris" and is one of the most well-known Jewish customs.

## Biblical Origins

The origin of brit milah can be traced back to Abraham, who was the founding patriarch of Judaism. According to Genesis, God appeared to Abraham when he was ninety-nine years old and commanded him to circumcise himself, his thirteen-year-old son Ishmael and all the other men with him as a sign of the covenant between Abraham and God.

And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant." (Genesis 17:9-14)

By circumcising himself and all the men with him, Abraham established the practice of brit milah, which was thenceforth performed on all newborn boys after eight days of life. Originally men were commanded to circumcise their sons themselves, but eventually this duty was transferred to the mohelim (plural of mohel).