



## Questions for Personal Study or Group Discussion

### Open

- What is the most unbelievable thing an advertiser has promised you? Do the outlandish promises of such gimmicks affect your view of “big” promises in general? Do they affect your view of biblical promises?

### Read

- Romans 4:1-25

### Observe

- Why does Paul go back to the examples of Abraham and David in his explanation of righteousness?
- How do verses 3-8 illustrate what Paul says in 3:27-28?
- Why do you think Paul emphasizes that Abraham was counted as righteous *before* he was circumcised? What does this tell us about circumcision in general?
- What do verses 18-21 tell us about faith?

### Apply

- Who are some other biblical characters that you respect as examples of faith? Who are some examples of Christians in your life that you look up to for the way they trust God?
- Why does it matter—practically or emotionally—whether a right relationship with God is a gift to be received or a prize to be earned?
- Where are you being stretched in your ability to trust God’s promises? What can you learn from Abraham’s example?

### Prayer

- *Confess* your attempts to earn God’s favor instead of receiving it as his gift to you.
- *Ask* and *receive* God’s forgiveness (1 John 1:9). *Thank* God for his grace.