


Week of August 9, 2026 - Righteousness Credited! Small Group Study 11

## Connect

What is one thing in life that feels so much better when it is given to you as a completely free, unexpected gift, rather than something you had to work hard to achieve or buy yourself?

## Verses - Romans 4:1-12 (CSB)

**Read aloud:**

1 What then will we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? 2 If Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about – but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness. 4 Now to the one who works, pay is not credited as a gift, but as something owed. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes on him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited for righteousness. 6 Likewise, David also speaks of the blessing of the person to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 7 Blessed are those whose lawless acts are forgiven and whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the person the Lord will never charge with sin. 9 Is this blessing only for the circumcised, then? Or is it also for the uncircumcised? For we say, Faith was credited to Abraham for righteousness. 10 In what way, then, was it credited – while he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? It was not while he was circumcised, but uncircumcised. 11 And he received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while still uncircumcised. This was to make him the father of all who believe but are not circumcised, so that righteousness may be credited to them also. 12 And he became the father of the circumcised, who are not only circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith our father Abraham had while he was still uncircumcised.

**Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?**

# Study

**Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:**

1. According to vv.1-3, what did Abraham do that resulted in righteousness being credited to him and what was it based on? *(Hint: Notice he quotes Genesis 15:6, long before he was circumcised or offered Isaac on the altar.)*

2. In vv.4-5, how does Paul contrast the wages given to a worker with the righteousness credited to a believer? What condition is the person in when God justifies them (v.5)?

3. Looking at vv.6-8, how does King David describe the blessing of someone to whom God credits righteousness apart from works? What happens to their lawless acts and sins?

4. According to vv.9-12, was Abraham declared righteous before or after he was circumcised? What purpose did it serve if it was not what saved him?

# Share

**Discuss 1:**
Pastor Takeshi emphasized that God justifies the ungodly while they are still flawed, stating: "If you think that you need to change something first, then you have missed the whole point." Have you ever caught yourself (or someone you know) operating under a "let me fix myself up first before I come to God" mindset? How does knowing that moral transformation happens after we are already declared righteous bring freedom and relief?

**Discuss 2:**
Pastor Takeshi noted that Abraham's circumcision was simply a "sign and seal" (vv. 11-12) like Christian baptism or church membership today. And that without genuine faith, the external sign means nothing. How can we encourage outward acts of obedience (like baptism, church participation, or giving) without accidentally making people feel like those activities are what make them righteous before God?

**Minister to one another through PRAYER sharing *specific* prayer requests.**