

Week of August 16, 2026 - Give Glory to God! Small Group Study 12

Connect

Have you ever rooted for an underdog or hoped for an outcome that seemed impossible (like a sports comeback, a wild movie twist, or an unbelievable weather forecast)? What happened?

Verses - Romans 4:13-25 (CSB)

Read aloud:

13 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would inherit the world was not through the law, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. 14 If those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made empty and the promise nullified, 15 because the law produces wrath. And where there is no law, there is no transgression. 16 This is why the promise is by faith, so that it may be according to grace, to guarantee it to all the descendants—not only to the one who is of the law but also to the one who is of Abraham's faith. He is the father of us all. 17 As it is written: I have made you the father of many nations—in the presence of the God in whom he believed,the one who gives life to the dead and calls things into existence that do not exist. 18 He believed, hoping against hope, so that he became the father of many nations according to what had been spoken: So will your descendants be. 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered[e] his own body to be already dead (since he was about a hundred years old) and also the deadness of Sarah's womb. 20 He did not waver in unbelief at God's promise but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 because he was fully convinced that what God had promised, he was also able to do. 22 Therefore, it was credited to him for righteousness. 23 Now it was credited to him was not written for Abraham alone, 24 but also for us. It will be credited to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25 He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

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

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. How was the promise given to Abraham and his offspring—was it through obeying the law, or through the righteousness of faith? (vv.13–16)
   What does Paul say happens if the promise depends on the law (vv.14–15)?

2. In v.17, how is God described? What physical facts about Abraham and Sarah made having a child seem humanly impossible (vv.18–19)?

3. Instead of wavering in unbelief at God's promise, how did Abraham respond (vv.20–21)? What was the result of his faith (v.22)?

4. According to vv.23–25, why was this account of Abraham written down for us? What specific facts about Jesus are we called to believe?

Share

Discuss 1:
Pastor Takeshi illustrated trust by contrasting a family member promising to fund a ¥500 million building project versus a billionaire promising to do so—it's easy to trust the billionaire because we know they actually have the capacity. When you face "impossible" obstacles in life (in your health, job, family, or future), do you tend to measure the solution by your own limited capacity or by God's infinite capacity as Creator? What helps you shift that focus?

Discuss 2:
Pastor Takeshi pointed out that Abraham wasn't in denial, rather, he was fully aware that his body was as good as dead and Sarah's womb was barren (vv.18–19), yet he "believed, hoping against hope." What is the difference between shallow positive thinking and true Biblical faith when facing hard realities?

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