

## Faith of Abraham (Romans 4)

### Open:

What is one unbelievable (even laughable) thing you have been promised on TV, in junk mail, or on the campaign trail? What prompts you to toss it aside instead of trusting in the promised “free lunch”?

### Dig:

### Read Romans 4

What is Paul’s point in stressing that Abraham was counted as right with God before he was circumcised? How does 4:9-17 support Paul’s statement in 3:29-31 about faith and the law?

What do you learn about faith from the example in verses 18-21? How would you feel in Abraham’s place?

Discuss the significance of the phrase “Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations...” (v. 18a) for Abraham and for those of us who are “heirs” of Abraham’s faith in Jesus. Has there ever been a time in your walk with God that you can relate to Abraham’s situation?

How does Faith relate to Hope? Why is the anchor such an appropriate physical symbol for Biblical hope?

Discuss the “Strength” of Abraham’s faith and hope as Paul’s describes his faith in verses 19-21.

What are the key points in Abraham’s view of God? How do these truths relate to what Paul calls us to believe in verses 23-25?

### Reflect and Application:

Where are you being stretched in your ability to trust God’s promises? What can you learn from Abraham’s example to encourage you?