

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Romans

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: Salvation Apart From Religious Works

Date: 05/24/2026

Memory Verse: Romans 6:23 NIV

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Big Idea: Justification is not by works or sacraments, but through faith alone like Abraham.

Read Romans 4:1-12

1. Paul points to Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation, and reminds us that he was not justified by works, but by faith. Why do you think it's so natural for us to measure ourselves, and others, by performance? In what areas of your life (career, friendships, faith, etc) do you feel the most pressure to "prove" your worth?
2. To the one who works, wages are earned, but to the one who trusts God, faith is credited as righteousness (vv. 4–5). Have you ever caught yourself thinking God "owes" you something because of your obedience? What makes it difficult to receive grace as a gift rather than something you contribute to? How can this be especially difficult in our relationships with others?
3. God must credit righteousness to us apart from works (v 6) because there is no amount of works that can remove our sin. How does believing you can outwork your sin subtly minimize the seriousness of sin or the necessity of the cross? If you lived by a merit-based system, how would you ever know if what you have done is enough? How does living by faith relieve that pressure for



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you?

4. Quoting David, Paul speaks of the blessedness of sin being forgiven and covered by God (vv. 7-8). How would you describe the emotional or spiritual weight of guilt before forgiveness? What has it felt like to confess your sin with a genuine sense of remorse to God or to others? How can we cultivate a group culture where people feel safe bringing sin into the light?
5. Abraham was declared righteous before he was circumcised. This proved that the outward ritual of circumcision was a result of his faith, not the cause of it (vv 9-10). In what ways can we make ourselves look good on the outside in order to cover up the mess inside? How can external markers like wealth, stability, or a good reputation subtly make someone complacent?
6. God's blessing was never meant for one ethnic group alone. Abraham becomes the father of all who walk in the footsteps of faith (vv 11-12). What does this passage teach us about the global and inclusive nature of the gospel? Are there ways we can create insider/outsider dynamics in church culture? As we pursue the 2030 vision, what might it look like to intentionally help more people take their first steps of faith?
7. Paul describes believers as those who "follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had" (v 12). What are some steps of faith that Abraham took? Where is God asking you to trust Him without having all the details? What step of faith could you take this week that demonstrates reliance on God rather than self-effort or self-knowledge?



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