

THE PASTOR'S ESSENTIALS®

OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

¹³ "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. ¹⁴ BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.
MATTHEW 7:13-14

es-sen-tials (ĭ-sĕn'shəlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

The Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Romans

A BIBLE STUDY

SESSION FIVE

Romans 4:9-25

Questions for Session Five

1. Refer to vv. 7-8. What is Paul quoting here? Why is this important? In this transition from David to Abraham explain the point that Paul is attempting to argue in the text. What does your commentary tell you?
2. Answer the question posed in v. 9. How does v. 9 tie into v. 10 to explain God's action in Abraham's life? Answer the question of v. 10. In referring to Genesis 17:24-26 how does Paul explain that a Gentile was the first patriarch?

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3. What does v. 12 tell us? Building on the idea that God is the Father of all, according to v. 12, how does this revelation impact how we are to share our faith in the world, and to what population we should take the Good News?

4. Was the law available to Abraham? According to v. 13 how did Abraham and his descendants receive God's promise? What do v. 14 and v. 15 tell us about the law? Explain v. 15b. What does this teach us? Is it conditional? Why or why not? Do we have a God of grace, or do we have a God of judgment? Explain.

5. How do we as twenty-first century followers of Christ receive God's promise? How would you explain v. 17a? Using the language of v. 17b, explain how Isaac could fit into Paul's teaching in v. 17. How does Paul use the word *calls*? Apply this statement to a modern example?

6. Explain Paul's language in vv. 18-19. How could this be? When Abraham could not see the future of the coming Christ, how could he possibly see the coming of his son Isaac at his age? Give at least one example of how you have kept your faith in God against all hope? Did you waver, and what was the outcome?

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7. Compare Abraham's unwavering faith in the fact that God has the power to do what God says he will do with your own faith? Compare how God credited Abraham with righteousness to the way God offers us salvation?

8. What does God promise us? Since God's grace exists in stages, explain justification? How would you teach this to an unbeliever or a *nominal Christian*? What are the other stages, and how do we move through these? Which ones are up to us and which ones have been done for us?

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