

Connect Group 8-7-22

Welcome

Opening Question: What is something that you unexpectedly got for free? OR, What is the hottest day you can remember?

Worship

Word

We are stepping out of Genesis for a week, but we will still be looking at Abraham and the relevant subjects of faith and belief. We will return to Genesis 15 next week.

Read Romans 4 and answer the following questions.

- 1) Many of the Jewish listeners and converts believed that they were justified by the law and not by faith alone. Why does Paul go back to Abraham and David?
- 2) What do verses 1-3 say about Abraham's righteousness?
- 3) What is the difference between wages and a gift? Why does Paul make this distinction?
- 4) Paul talks at length about circumcision. Why was circumcision so important to the Jews?
- 5) Circumcision was an identification with being part of the covenant people. Why is it significant that Abraham was considered righteous (in Genesis 15) before circumcision was given (Genesis 17)?
- 6) If we were judged by our ability to keep the law, what would the result be (verse 15)?
- 7) Look at verses 16 & 17. What stands out to you?
- 8) Verses 18-25 summarize many of the events that we are about to study in Genesis. What do you learn about Abraham's faith? What is applicable to us today?

Digging Deeper:

- 1) Was it hard for you to accept that salvation was a free gift of God?
- 2) Why do you think people struggle with the truth that salvation is by faith, not works?
- 3) Just because salvation is free to us, doesn't mean it wasn't costly. What did our salvation cost God?
- 4) How does this passage remind us of the relevance of the events in Genesis, for us today?
- 5) We are called to live by faith. What do you think Biblical faith is? What is it not?
- 6) How have you been stretched in your ability to trust God's promises?
- 7) How does learning about God's faithfulness to others help us to trust God in our own lives?
- 8) What else stands out to you from this study?

Works

Pray for one another and for opportunities to share the love and message of Jesus Christ.