SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

# Romans

## *Chapter 4*

*Faith Credited as Righteousness*

MEMORY VERSE · ROMANS 4:25

*"He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification."*

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

# This week in Romans 4

Romans 4 is about a ledger — what God writes in a man's account and what He refuses to write. Abraham and David, a liar and a murderer, were both counted righteous by faith. This week God is asking you to stop keeping score and trust the One "who justifies the ungodly" (v. 5).

**How to use this journal**

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Romans study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

**What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?**

DAY 1 OF 5

# Credited, Not Earned

READ · ROMANS 4:1–8

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**What does verse 3 say Abraham did, and what was credited to him? In verses 4–5, what is the difference between a wage and a gift?**

REFLECT

**Verse 5 says God "justifies the ungodly" — not the improved. How does that land on you on your worst day?**

REFLECT

**David wrote the words in verses 7–8 after adultery and murder. What sin do you most need to hear God say He "will not take into account"?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**When shame from your past shows up today, read verse 8 out loud and thank God that He "will not take into account" your sin in Christ.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 4:25)

DAY 2 OF 5

# Before the Knife

READ · ROMANS 4:9–12

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**According to verse 10, was Abraham credited with righteousness before or after he was circumcised? What does verse 11 call circumcision?**

REFLECT

**Circumcision was a seal of what God had already done (v. 11). What outward marker — baptism, membership, a sobriety chip — are you tempted to trust as if it made you right with God?**

REFLECT

**Verse 12 talks about those who "follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham." What would one step of faith look like for you this week?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Take that one step today — the phone call, the apology, the confession to a brother — trusting God with the outcome.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 4:25)

DAY 3 OF 5

# The Promise Rests on Grace

READ · ROMANS 4:13–17

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**According to verse 13, how did the promise come to Abraham — through the Law or through faith? How does verse 17 describe God?**

REFLECT

**Verse 16 says the promise is by faith "so that the promise will be guaranteed." Why is a promise that depends on God more secure than one that depends on your performance?**

REFLECT

**God "gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist" (v. 17). Where do you need that kind of God right now?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Write down one place in your life that feels dead. Pray verse 17 over it by name, and leave it in His hands.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 4:25)

DAY 4 OF 5

# Hope Against Hope

READ · ROMANS 4:18–22

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**What facts did Abraham face honestly in verse 19? According to verses 20–21, what did he do with God's promise?**

REFLECT

**Abraham did not pretend his body was young (v. 19), yet he "did not waver." What hard fact in your life — a sentence, a diagnosis, a broken family — are you facing, and what promise of God speaks to it?**

REFLECT

**Verse 20 says he "grew strong in faith" — he was strengthened from outside himself. Where do you need strength you know you cannot produce?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Give God glory today by thanking Him in advance for something He has promised but you cannot yet see (vv. 20–21).**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 4:25)

DAY 5 OF 5

# Written for Our Sake Also

READ · ROMANS 4:23–25

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**According to verses 23–24, for whose sake was Abraham's story written? What two things does verse 25 say happened to Jesus, and why?**

REFLECT

**Paul says this was written "for our sake also" (v. 24). Which part of Abraham's story feels most like it was written for you this week?**

REFLECT

**Jesus was raised "because of our justification" (v. 25) — the empty tomb is God's receipt that the payment was accepted. What would be missing from your faith if the tomb were still sealed?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Memorize verse 25 and say it to one other man this week as good news, not a lecture.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 4:25)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

# Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

**Paul says Abraham could boast before men “but not before God” (v. 2). What is the difference between being respected by people and being right with God, and which one have you chased harder?**

FOR THE GROUP · 2

**Abraham is called “the father of us all” (v. 16). What does it mean for this group to be one family by faith, and how should that change the way we carry each other?**

FOR THE GROUP · 3

**Verse 21 says Abraham was “fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.” Which promise of God are you holding onto right now, and how can the rest of us pray with you about it?**

MY PRAYER

**Father, I come with nothing in my hands but Your promise; thank You for not counting my sin, and help me trust You with…**

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ROMANS 4:25

*"He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification."*