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## Justification by Faith Illustrated Romans 4:1-8

### I. The Example of Abraham (vv. 1-3)

A. What about Abraham our \_\_\_\_\_? (v.1)  
[Gen. 12:1, 4; 15:5; Jms. 2:23; Gal. 3:7]

B. Was he justified by \_\_\_\_\_? (v. 2)  
[Gen. 22:1-3; Jn. 8:53; Gen. 26:4-5; Rom. 3:27]

C. What does the \_\_\_\_\_ say? (v. 3)

1. A lesson on bibliology (v. 3a)

a) Scripture has absolute \_\_\_\_\_  
(2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:3; 20-21)

b) Scripture has comprehensive \_\_\_\_\_  
(2 Pet. 3:16; Lk. 4:21)

c) Scripture has present \_\_\_\_\_  
(Psa. 119:137-138; Heb. 4:12)

2. A lesson on faith (v. 3b)

a) God instructed Abraham to \_\_\_\_\_ his homeland  
and to head to Canaan (Gen. 12)

b) God instructed Abraham that He would give him the entire  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Canaan (Gen. 13)

c) God instructed Abraham that He would give him a biological  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 15)

d) God instructed Abraham about the rite of  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 17)

e) God instructed Abraham about what to do as He was about to  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18-19)

f) God instructed Abraham to \_\_\_\_\_ Hagar and Ishmael  
away (Gen. 21)

g) God instructed Abraham to \_\_\_\_\_ his Son Isaac  
(Gen. 22)

### II. The Explanation of Faith Over Works (vv. 4-5)

A. It's not about the godly man who \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 4)  
[Rom. 11:6; 1 Cor. 4:7]

B. It's about the ungodly man who \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 5)  
[Rom. 3:22-24; Lk. 18:9-14; Gal. 3:6-9]

### III. The Example of David (vv. 6-8)

A. David was counted as righteous \_\_\_\_\_ from his works (v. 6)  
[2 Sam. 11:1-5, 27; 12:7, 13-14; Psa. 51:1-2]

B. David was \_\_\_\_\_ that the Lord did not count his sin against  
him (vv. 7-8) [Psa. 32:1-2; Matt. 5:10-11]

### TAKE HOME

- How does Paul's dependence on the \_\_\_\_\_ to bring clarity model for you where our true authority lies?
- How does Paul's use of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Abraham and David help you to be challenged and encouraged by their example?
- How is David's \_\_\_\_\_ of receiving the blessing of forgiveness stir you in your faith today?

## STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at [placiritachurch.com](http://placiritachurch.com).

1. Read Romans 4:1. What is the significance of Abraham being the Jews’ forefather? Where was Abraham from? Why does that matter? (Gen. 12:1, 4; 15:5; Jms. 2:23; Gal. 3:7)

2. Read Romans 4:2. Why did the Jews think Abraham was justified by works? What does this have to do with boasting? (Gen. 22:1-3; Jn. 8:53; Gen. 26:4-5; Rom. 3:27)

3. Read Romans 4:3. What does the Scripture say? What is significant from this question? What can we learn about bibliology and faith from this one verse?

4. Read Romans 4:4. What is the logic of this verse? How would you give this same argument in your own words? (Rom. 11:6; 1 Cor. 4:7) 5. Read Romans 4:5. How can an ungodly man be justified? Was Abraham ungodly? In what way? (Rom. 3:22-24; Lk. 18:9-14; Gal. 3:6-9)

6. Read Romans 4:6. How did David get brought into this? What is his story? (2 Sam. 11:1-5, 27; 12:7, 13-14; Psa. 51:1-2)

7. Read Romans 4:7-8. What passage is Paul quoting from? What is the significance of this passage? (Psa. 32:1-2; Matt. 5:10-11) How does David’s example mirror that of Abraham?

8. Read the take home questions. Which one encourages you or challenges you the most? Why? How will you live your life differently this week based on what you have learned from this passage?

“Paul was storming the very citadel of traditional Judaism. By demonstrating that Abraham was not justified by works, the apostle demolished the foundation of rabbinical teaching... If Abraham was not and could not have been justified by keeping the law, then no one could be. Conversely, if Abraham was justified solely on the basis of his faith in God, then everyone else must be justified in the same way, since Abraham is the biblical standard of a righteous man.”

- John MacArthur, Romans 1-8 in *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*