

STUDY GUIDE

RIGHT WITH GOD 6.7.15

[Instructions for LifeGroup leaders]

As you prepare to take your LifeGroup through this study, remember that this guide is provided in the hopes that you will customize it based on the insights you have of your group. You can dig deeper by studying in advance for additional references, study helps and applications or you can trim it down and focus on one section that you feel your group needs to discuss and grow in. It's your study "guide". Modify as much as you want and have fun with it!

[setup]

What sorts of things keep many unbelievers from having peace with God?

What sorts of things keep many believers from having peace with God?

[digging deeper]

Read Romans chapter 4 and underline, circle, highlight or take note of words that are repeated multiple times. Right down some of those words and how you would define them:

We're seeing several key terms in Romans 4. Let's be sure we have a good grasp of our terminology. Take a few minutes to answer the following questions. Look for your answers in Romans first. If you need further assistance, feel free to consult a Bible dictionary or commentary.

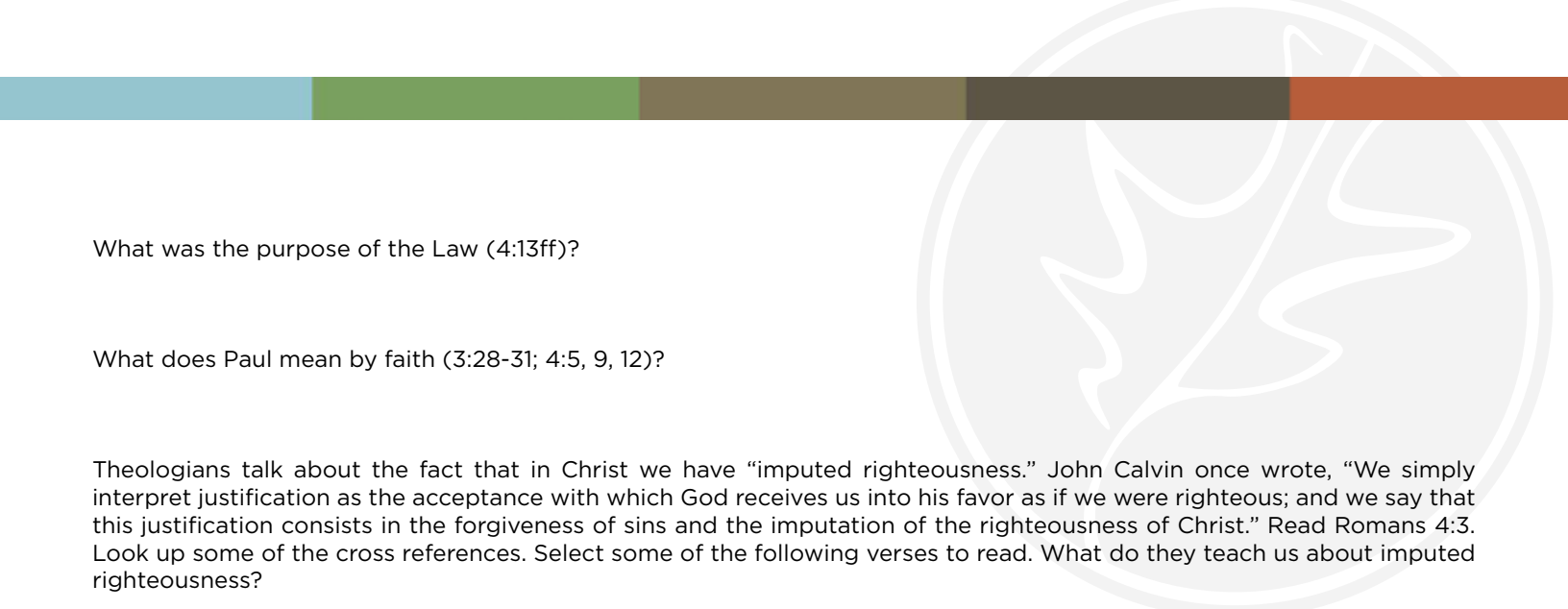
What does Paul mean by justified (3:28, 4:2)?

What does he mean by righteousness (4:3, 5, 9)?

What is the significance of circumcision to a Jew?

In 4:9-11, what does Paul point out about the order of Abraham's faith and his circumcision? How would you prove that Abraham was not justified because of his circumcision? Why is this significant for our lives today?

Paul uses Abraham as an illustration of faith without works. James uses Abraham as an example of a faith that works. Let's go back to the Old Testament and watch these two illustrations harmonize in the life of this great man. Read Romans 4 and James 2:14-26. Summarize the teachings of these two passages - specifically, the instruction on Abraham.



What was the purpose of the Law (4:13ff)?

What does Paul mean by faith (3:28-31; 4:5, 9, 12)?

Theologians talk about the fact that in Christ we have “imputed righteousness.” John Calvin once wrote, “We simply interpret justification as the acceptance with which God receives us into his favor as if we were righteous; and we say that this justification consists in the forgiveness of sins and the imputation of the righteousness of Christ.” Read Romans 4:3. Look up some of the cross references. Select some of the following verses to read. What do they teach us about imputed righteousness?

Galatians 2:16
Isaiah 53:11

Ephesians 2:8-9
I Peter 2:24

Philippians 3:9
Titus 3:5

II Corinthians 5:21

Read Romans 5:1. How do the truths of Romans 4 help us have peace with God?

[live it out]

What does it matter to you – practically or emotionally – whether a right relationship with God is a gift to be received or a prize to be earned?

Where are you being stretched in your ability to trust God’s promises? What can you learn from Abraham’s example to encourage you?

What are two things you have learned from Romans 4 and how can you apply them this coming week?

How does what you learned today help you be a better LifeHouse in your neighborhood and stay faithful to your New Life 10|24 commitment?

Close this time in prayer, either as a group or split up into smaller groups. Make sure you pray for people on your NewLife 10|24 list.