

# STUDY GUIDE

## GENESIS: Week 8 7.13.14

### [SET UP]

Do you have any new Lifehouses stories to share with the group? How is your Lifehouses initiative going?

Have a few people share their experiences of a major change in their life that happened recently. This could be a move, job change, marriage/remarriage, new baby, etc. Was it an easy thing? What was the hardest thing about it? Did it end up being a good thing?

When you think about “faith,” what are the first things that come to mind? On first impression, is faith something that happens on the inside (heart, mind) or on the outside (actions, what we do)?

### [DIGGING DEEPER]

Read Genesis 12:1-8. This week Pastor Chad introduced us to the person of Abraham (Abram at this point), the most important person in the Bible outside of Jesus Christ. Abraham was a man of faith, and he is commended through the Bible for his faith. We saw on Sunday that the faith that God commands and commends is an all-in faith. An all-in faith is a lived-out faith. This involves listening, trusting, obeying, sacrificing, and blessing.

How do we listen to God’s voice? How do we know God is talking to us? What ways are reliable, and what ways might not be?

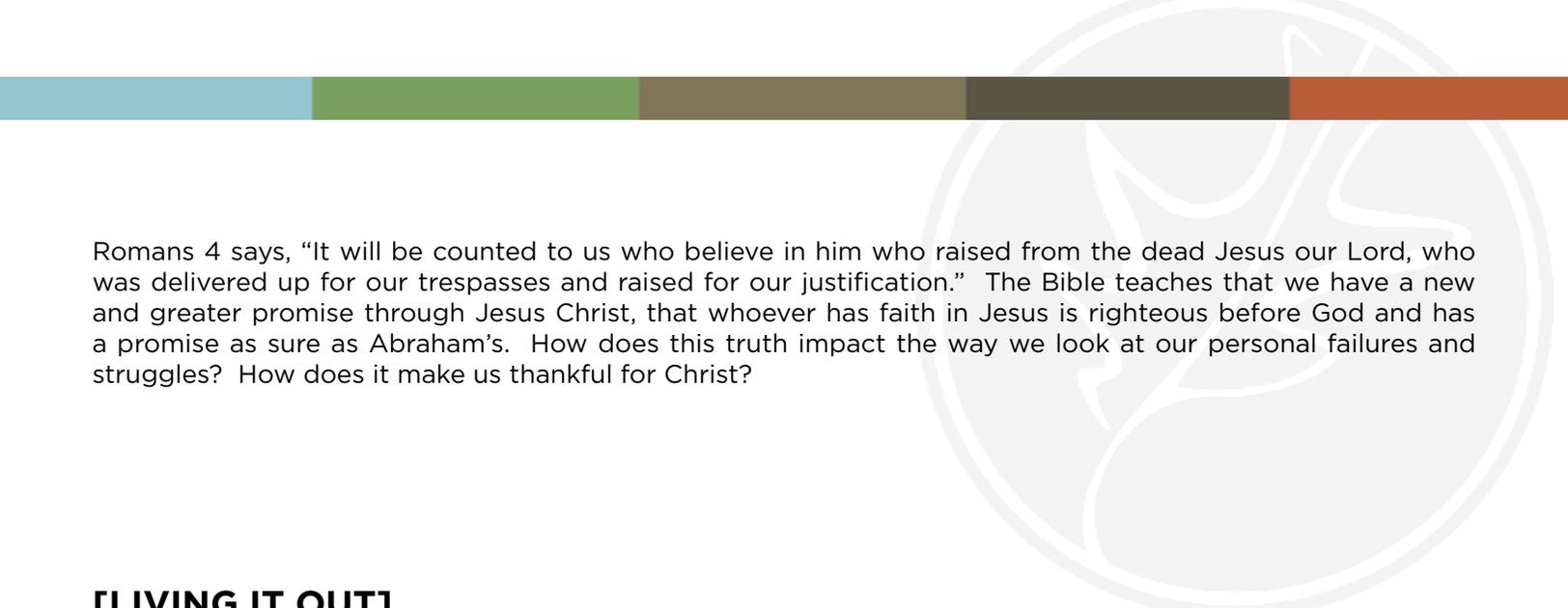
How do we know Abraham trusted God? See Hebrews 11:8-12.

How do you know when you trust someone? What is evidence of someone trusting someone else? How do you know if a child trusts a parent?

Read Jesus’ words in Mark 10:29-31. Have you ever experienced this for yourself while being obedient to God’s call?

God promised Abraham that he would be the father of nations, but when he died it didn’t look too promising. But think about this: Over 3.8 billion people on the earth – all the world’s Christians, Muslims, and Jews - claim Abraham as their physical and/or spiritual father. God clearly fulfilled his promise!

Abraham was a man of faith, but he certainly wasn’t a perfect man. He made many mistakes and took matters into his own hands during periods of his life. But God didn’t forsake his promise or cast Abraham away.



Romans 4 says, “It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.” The Bible teaches that we have a new and greater promise through Jesus Christ, that whoever has faith in Jesus is righteous before God and has a promise as sure as Abraham’s. How does this truth impact the way we look at our personal failures and struggles? How does it make us thankful for Christ?

## **[LIVING IT OUT]**

In what ways can you apply this to your life, work, family: An all-in faith is a lived-out faith?

Are you at a place that you are free from external hindrances to pursuing God’s will? If God asked you today to pack up and move to another country, could you? What is one step you could take to orient your life to be more prepared for God to move in it?

Do you have a passport, and is it current? This is CVC’s biggest year of short-term trip involvement in the history of our church. Get a passport and be ready if God calls you to one of our short-term trips. For passport forms, see below.

Pray as a group that you will grow in a lived out faith where you listen to, trust in, obey, sacrifice for, and are blessed by God.

## **[SELF-FEEDER MATERIAL]**

To obtain a US Passport, visit <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports/new.html>

For young adults trying to figure out “God’s will for my life,” check out Kevin DeYoung’s book Just Do Something. It can be found here: <http://www.christianbook.com/something-liberating-approach-finding-gods-will/kevin-deyoung/9780802458384/pd/458384>

Here is a good article on knowing God’s will by Bill Bright: <http://www.cru.org/training-and-growth/classics/10-basic-steps/6-obedience/01-knowing-gods-will.htm>