

*How Faith Works*

Romans 4:1-22

May 29, 2016

1. Have you ever known someone or read a story about someone with unwavering faith? How has their story inspired you and moved you to greater faith in God?
2. Pastor Jim outlines three principles for following in the footsteps of Abraham in having faith that pleases God. The first principle is to hear the promises of God through faith and *not* through works. In other words, many of God's promises are not dependent on what you do. What are some promises of God that you have been reluctant to believe?
3. The second principle in developing faith is to acknowledge the hopelessness and face the facts. Pastor Jim said that having faith is not putting a positive spin on a negative situation. Why is it important that we acknowledge the obstacles that are in front of us? What are the dangers to placing too much emphasis on our obstacles?
4. The third principle in developing faith is being fully persuaded that God has the power to do what He promised. Abraham was strengthened by God in his faith and the same can happen to us today. How does listening to a testimony strengthen our faith? Can you describe a time in your past when God provided for you when you thought you were hopeless?
5. Romans 4:3 reads: What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

According to this verse, how was Abraham made righteous? Why is our faith in God so important in our relationship with Him?

6. Take this time to pray with your group. Read Hebrews 11:1 aloud and allow your faith to be strengthened by God and one another.