

FORGIVEN & FREE



from Romans, a letter in the Bible

Through this series we'll be working our way through the Biblical letter of Romans. We'll explore themes of forgiveness, freedom, hope and grace.

Listen again and Worksheets

On the series web page
www.kingsnorwich.com/forgiven

LIFE Group OneStop

One place for all LIFE Group resources
www.kingsnorwich.com/onestop

FORGIVEN & FREE



Title: The blessing of believing

Date: 7th May 2023

Speaker: Marcus

Site: City Centre / Mile Cross

Bible reference: Romans 4:3

Overview

Abraham - Paul uses Abraham to prove and illustrate an important principle because to the Jews he was a Father, an important somebody. Paul wants them to see, however, how God related to him (and in fact everybody) when he was a nobody.

Believed - Abraham believed God's promise of abundant blessing. He didn't do anything to deserve it, or earn it, quite the opposite, but the LORD still turned up in his life and promised him extraordinary, exponential blessing. This blessing finds its fulfilment in Jesus.

God - The one true God who created and sustains all things, who sent his son and gave us his word.

Righteousness - Right standing before God, the state of never having done anything wrong. There is no one righteous, not one! The problem is then how can a good God bless someone who is not good without himself becoming less than perfectly good.

Counted - Abraham believed God, and his belief, distinct from his works, was counted by God as righteousness.

Abraham

- Why do you think God chose Abraham? (no reason except perhaps he had little or nothing to commend him, and no possible way of having any descendants...)
- What's the difference between faith and "works of the law." (faith is that which points away from our own merit and to God's gracious provision for us in Jesus, while works of the law are what a person does that might earn or merit God's blessing in some way...)
- What did God promise Abraham? (Gen 12...)

Jesus

- How are God's promises to Abraham fulfilled in Jesus? (Gal 3...Eph 1...)
- How can God be just and yet justify those who have faith in Jesus? (Romans 3:25 – 26...we are in Christ, he dies for our sin, and we receive his righteousness...)
- Why do people (or you) sometimes have a hard time believing the promise of God's blessing in Jesus and what would you say to help them? (it's not the usual way things work, they don't believe God exists or promised blessing, we are used to earning merit, we want to feel good about deserving something, we feel like we don't deserve it, it seems like people won't change their ways...)