

**Reckoned as Righteousness**

*The Life of Abraham*

*Genesis 15: 1-6*

*Sunday, November 15, 2009*

What do we need when we're in the struggle of faith?

1. Sometimes we need to \_\_\_\_\_ God's gospel promises again.
2. Sometimes we need God's gospel promises \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Sometimes we need the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of others.
4. Sometimes we just need to \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. The RIGHTEOUSNESS of Faith: *Why should I hang on?***

*Then He believed . . .*

*in the Lord . . .*

*and He reckoned it to him . . .*

*as righteousness . . .*

Abram was saved by \_\_\_\_\_ alone through \_\_\_\_\_ alone.

Why can a righteous God reckon ungodly sinners righteous?

\_\_\_\_\_

**I. The STRUGGLE of Faith: *Is it OK?***

Dimensions of the struggle. . .

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**II. The FUEL for Faith: *What do I do?***

Abram	You & I
He faced trials & unknowns.	
He heard the Word of the Lord.	
He saw visions of the Lord.	
He was given the promises of God.	
He was alone on his journey of faith.	

## *Text Questions for Growth Groups*

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1. Read Genesis 15:1-6. What happens in Abram's life just before this and how does this shape this episode?
2. What evidence do you see of Abram's struggle of faith in the text?
3. Is Abram's struggle independent of or a part of his faith? What evidence do we see of his faith?
4. How is Abram's faith strengthened? By whom?
5. What does the word "reckoned" (NAS) or "credited" (NIV) mean? What does the word "righteous" mean? IS Abraham really a righteous man? What is Genesis 15:6 saying? How does God do this?
6. Genesis 15:6 forms the basis of Paul's argument in Romans 4. Read Romans 4. What is Paul saying in Romans 4:16? What is Paul saying in Romans 4:22-25?

## *Life Questions for Growth Groups*

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1. What was most interesting and/or challenging for you in this week's text/message? What were the emotions you felt as you heard and thought about God's Word this week?
2. We all struggle in our faith, yet so few of us talk about it. Why? Why is it not ok to struggle in faith? How can we begin to normalize the struggle of faith?
3. Describe a past or current struggle in your faith. (It might be some unanswered question, or some doctrine you have a hard time believing, or something that has happened in the world that you can't get your head around. . . or something else)
4. What can we do when (not if!) we struggle in faith? What do we need? Where do we turn? How can a Growth Group help?
5. Why is it worth hanging on to our faith? What is so important about faith according to Hebrews 11:6? (Memorize that baby!)