

**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 271: PAUL WRITES ABOUT FAITH**  
**ROMANS 3:21-5:5**

But now a righteousness of God (righteousness is when people become right with God), and it has nothing to do with the law. He has now shown us that new way, which the law and the prophets told us about long ago. God makes people right through their faith in Jesus Christ. He does this for all who believe in Christ. Everyone is the same. All have sinned and are not good enough to share God's glory. They are justified (which means made right with God) by his grace. This is a free gift. They are justified by being made free from sin through Jesus Christ. God gave us Jesus as a way to forgive people's sins through their faith in him. God can forgive them because the blood sacrifice of Jesus pays for their sins. God gave Jesus to show that he always does what is right and fair. He was right in the past when he was patient and did not punish people for their sins. And in our own time he still does what is right. God worked all this out in a way that allows him to judge people fairly and still make right any person who has faith in Jesus. So do we have any reason to boast about ourselves? No reason at all. And why not? Because we are depending on the way of faith, not on what we have done in following the law. I mean we are made right with God through faith, not through what we have done to follow the law. This is what we believe. God is not only the God of the Jews. He is also the God of those who are not Jews. There is only one God. He will make Jews right with him by their faith, and he will also make Gentiles, or non-Jews, right with him through their faith. So do we destroy God's law by following the way of faith? Not at all! In fact, faith causes us to be what the law actually wants for us. So what can we say about Abraham, the father of our people? What did he learn about faith? If Abraham was righteous by the things he did, he had a reason to brag about himself. But God knew different. That's why the Scriptures say, "Abraham believed God, and because of this he was accepted as one who is right with God." When people work, their pay is not given to them like a gift. They earn the pay they get by working. But people cannot do any work that will make them right with God. So they must just trust in him. THEN he accepts their faith, and THAT makes them right with him! He is the one who makes even evil people to become right! David said the same thing when he was talking about the blessing that people have when God accepts them as good without even looking at what they did before in their lives: "It is a great blessing when people are

forgiven for the wrongs they have done, when their sins are erased! It is a great blessing when the Lord accepts people as if they are without sin!" Is this blessing only for those who are circumcised? Or is it also for those who are not circumcised? We have already said that it was because of Abraham's faith that he was accepted as one who is right with God. So how did this happen? Did God accept Abraham before or after he was circumcised? God accepted him before his circumcision. Abraham was circumcised later to show that God accepted him. His circumcision was proof that he was right with God through faith before he was circumcised. So Abraham is the father of all those who believe but are not circumcised. They believe and are accepted as people who are right with God. And Abraham is also the father of those who have been circumcised under the Jewish law. But it is not their circumcision that makes him their father. He is their father only if they live following the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. Abraham and his descendants received the promise that they would get the whole world. But Abraham did not receive that promise because he followed the law. He received that promise because he was right with God through his faith. If people could get God's promise by following the law, then faith is worthless. And God's promise to Abraham is worthless, because the law can only bring God's anger on those who disobey it. But if there is no law, then there is nothing to disobey. So people get what God promised by having faith. This happens so that the promise can be a free gift. And if the promise is a free gift, then all of Abraham's people will get that promise. The promise is not just for those who live under the Law of Moses. It is for all who live with faith as Abraham did. He is the father of us all. As the Scriptures say, "I have made you a father of many nations." This is true before God, the one Abraham believed--the God who gives life to the dead and speaks of things that don't yet exist as if they are real. There was no hope that Abraham would have children, but Abraham believed God and continued to hope. And that is why he became the father of many nations. As God told him, "You will have many descendants." Abraham was almost a hundred years old, so he was past the age for having children. Also, Sarah could not have children. Abraham was well aware of this, but his faith in God never became weak. He never doubted that God would do what he promised. He never stopped believing. In fact, he grew stronger in his faith and just praised God. Abraham felt sure that God was able to do what he promised. So that's why "he was accepted as one who is right with God." These words ("he was accepted") were written not only for Abraham.

They were also written for us. God will also accept us because we believe. We believe in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from death. Jesus was handed over to die for our sins, and he was raised from death to make us right with God. We have been made right with God because of our faith. So we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through our faith, Christ has brought us into that blessing of God's grace that we now enjoy. And we are very happy because of the hope we have of sharing God's glory. And we are also happy with the troubles we have. Why are we happy with troubles? Because we know that these troubles make us more patient. And this patience is proof that we are strong. And this proof gives us hope. And this hope will never disappoint us. We know this because God has poured out his love to fill our hearts through the Holy Spirit he gave us.

# PAUL WRITES ABOUT FAITH

(ROMANS 3:21-5:5)



“And this hope will never disappoint us. We know this because God has poured out His love to fill our hearts through the Holy Spirit He gave us.” **ROMANS 5:5**

# 271. PAUL WRITES ABOUT FAITH

## ROMANS 3:21-5:5

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."*     **ROMANS 3:23-24**

### **Review Questions**

#### **True or False**

1. Everyone has sinned and is not worthy of God's glory.
2. We are made right by God's grace through Jesus' sacrifice for us.
3. A man can be made right with God by doing good things.
4. God's law is made nothing by our faith.
5. We are made right by our faith, and now we have peace with God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Questions**

1. Can we do enough good things to be made right with God?
2. What thing makes us right with God? (Faith, or believing, in Jesus!)
3. Is God's blessings only for the people who are circumcised like the Jews?
4. Can people who are not Jews be saved by faith?
5. Abraham was about a hundred years old, and his wife Sarah could not have children. Did he ever doubt for one minute God's promise to him that he would be the father of many nations?

## Lesson 271 Craft

### Reach the Mark

You will need two pieces of paper; one large and one 8.5"x11", chalk, markers, and a chair.

Make a sign that says "Faith in God" and tape it to the seat of a chair. Put the large sheet of paper on a blank wall in your classroom. Place the center of it just a little higher than the kids in your class can reach. Put a black mark at the very top of the paper. This is the "goal." Using a piece of chalk, let each child jump and make a mark on the paper trying to reach the goal, hopefully no one will be able to reach it. Then bring out the chair for them to stand on to make the mark.

Explain that this illustrates that we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, but the chair represents what Jesus does for us when we believe in Him. He makes it possible for us to reach the mark that God wants. [We are justified by faith.](#)

### "Grace" Colored-Sunglasses

You will need a target of some kind (like a piece of construction paper or cardboard with a SMALL target drawn on it, or even a pie pan), string, a ping-pong ball (or something light to throw that won't break or hurt anyone or anything), some sunglasses, and masking tape.

Suspend your 'target' from your ceiling on a string. Write "Grace" on two pieces of tape and tape on the inside of the sunglasses, leaving just enough room to still see. Place a chair about six feet from the suspended target and let the kids take turns trying to hit the target with the throwing object while standing behind the chair; give each child only one throw per turn.

Wear the sunglasses while you watch the game. Move the game along quickly, then have everyone listen closely so they don't miss what you have to say. Tell them that you are so glad that they all were so great at throwing the ball; that no one ever missed the target!

They will respond with "What ?" because they will know that some of them (or all of them!) did miss.

Act surprised at the fact that some missed and show them that you were watching the game through your "Grace" colored sunglasses.

Explain that this is how God looks at us when we have faith in Jesus Christ. When we miss the mark and confess our sins, we are justified, or made right with God; just as if we'd never sinned. [We are justified by faith.](#)

### PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of faith, trusting God for His best in their lives. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.