

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

Facilitator: Encourage your members to **BRING THEIR BIBLES** and use them during Connect Group.

CONNECT Group study questions for November 12, 2017

Title: It's Always Been By faith—Romans 4:1-8

Read: Romans 4:1-8

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." 4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

7

*"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven,
And whose sins have been covered.*

8

"Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account."

Review: Read the notes from Pastor Peppy's lesson, *It's Always Been By Faith*, and share what God revealed to you from his message.

Question: The Apostle Paul makes a convincing argument that from the beginning men and women were justified by faith and not by works. Yet, along came the Law through Moses with all those do's and don'ts, dietary laws, and observances—do's and don'ts heaped upon do's and don'ts.

If we are justified by faith alone (Romans 3:28), what was the Law all about? What purpose did it serve then, and what purpose does it serve today?

Question: According to the Scripture, both Abraham and David were justified by faith, but they each did something.

What did Abraham do? What did David do? By doing something, would they be in Pastor Peppy's "do" chair or his "done" chair? **Read:** Genesis 15:6; Hebrews 11:8-10; Psalm 32; James 2:14-17

Facilitator: Lead the group into a discussion of faith without works, works without faith, what the Law teaches us, and what it means to believe God.

Question: We take note of people who do great things. As a result, we perform—each in our own way—to be admired by others, sometimes even to the point of being proud of how humble we are. What transpires deep in our hearts can be sneaky, leading us away from what God desires.

What does God desire for each of us and what really impresses him?

Read: Psalm 51:17; 1 Corinthians 1:31 and 1 Samuel 16:7.

How can we ensure that our boasting is not the kind God despises?

Question: According to verses 7-8 in our Romans 4 text, what must a person do to have his sins forgiven, covered, and never again taken into account?

Read: Psalm 32:1-7

Question: What happens when we, whose sins are forgiven, covered and never to be taken into account, sin again? What do we do about it? What does God do about it? Is grace and faith still involved in forgiving and covering iniquity and removing the guilt of the believer who sins?