Romans Bible Study Questions: Chapter 4

Why does Paul bring in the example of Abraham when he has just said, “Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.”

In the accounting of Abraham being justified before God, what is Paul’s point about grace versus debt in v 4?

Why does Paul make a big point of Abraham being accounted righteous *prior to* circumcision? (v 9-12). How does the timing indicate the centrality of faith?

In v 14-15, Paul says “the law brings about wrath,” and “where there is no law there is no transgression.” Last week we saw that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” so what is the difference between transgression [of the law] and the state of sin?

What is the purpose of the discussion of Abraham’s hoping against hope and firm faith that God would fulfill his promises despite his age and Sarah’s barrenness? (v16-22)

The phrase “counted to him” is sometimes translated “imputed to him” or “reckoned” or “reputed” (v 22-25). What will be counted, imputed, or reckoned “to us also who believe in him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead” (v 24)? How does this complete the idea of our connection to Abraham?