

# The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

1/14/18

**Text: Romans 4:16-25 (ESV)**

**Title: Abraham's Faith, Our Faith**

**Teacher: Tim Rice**

## **Surrender through Prayer:**

*Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.*

## **Engage with the Sermon**

*Read the passage together*

*In his sermon, Tim taught us about the model Abraham sets for us in our faith. As Paul writes in Romans 4, Abraham's faith did not rely upon his circumstances; nor his own actions or obedience which were wavering and untrustworthy at times. Abraham's faith rested, was completely based and dependent, on God's grace. In our brokenness and sin we look at our circumstances and lack the faith to trust God's promises. But the truth of the gospel is that even in the midst of any circumstance, God's promises are not dependent upon our obedience and character, or on our ability to control the situation; God's promises of blessing and salvation are wholly dependent on His infinite power, and His perfect character to see them through. Those are the kinds of promises that are worth trusting in.*

## **Reflection Questions:**

- In contrast to God, who is able to keep any promise He makes, we tend to make a lot of promises that we have no ability to keep, either because of our lack of power to control it, or our lack of character to actually follow through. (saying "everything will be okay"... "I'll never do that again"...)* 
  - What promises do you make that you have no ability to keep?**
  - Who do you expect to make those same kinds of promises to you?**
- Tim talked about static interference obscuring the AM radio when he was young. We need to hear God's promises, and be reminded of his power and character to see them through, but our circumstances often obscure our ability to hear them.*
  - What circumstances obscure your ability to see or hear God's promises, power and character?**
  - What does God do to remind you who He is?**
- As Tim said, Paul writes our faith rests, is "Based", on grace. It is 100% dependent on God. Faith does not try to build another base to rest on, like our performance, circumstances or the promises of others, it rests only on the promises of God.*
  - What base have you tried to build for your hope, and where have you found it lacking?**
  - Read Ezekiel 37 and spend time praying to and putting your faith in the God who raises the dead.**

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## **WORSHIP AND PRAYER:**

### **A.C.T.S.**

*(Spend time in prayer and worship as a group as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart during your discussion.)*

#### **1. ADORATION (The Father)**

***Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions***

#### **2. CONFESSION (Me)**

***Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited***

#### **3. THANKSGIVING (Jesus)**

***Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)***

#### **4. SUPPLICATION (Holy Spirit)**

***Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways***

#### **5. Prepare for Gospel Community (My Neighbor)**

***Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.***

### **Prayer Items**

- 1. Worship the LORD for His surpassing greatness! Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that there is no thing nor person that is greater than He is and no one as true or as powerful.*
- 2. How have you doubted God's power or character by attributing to created things (or people) more power than they truly possess? Confess your unbelief to Jesus, asking His to forgive you and help you to trust Him more.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for His goodness and His power to save people like us. Thank Him for His character to hold true to His promises even at the cost of His own immeasurable suffering; and His power to conquer sin, death and hell.*
- 4. What circumstance or challenge has you most overwhelmed or troubled? Ask the Lord to help you to genuinely call your circumstances what they are, and also call the Lord what He is in the midst of your limits.*
- 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen your knowledge of Him – helping you to study scripture, freeing you from fears or doubts that clash with His Word, and growing your confidence in His promises.*