

## Home Group Material – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016

### **Read Romans 4**

One might read this text in one of two ways. Paul could be using Abraham as a *case study* to prove the argument he has developed in chapters 2-3, or Paul might be speaking about *inclusion* in Abraham's story for all people of faith. What are the implications specific to either interpretation? Which do you find most convincing? Why?

Why is the order of Abraham's life so important to Paul's argument? What are the implications for Christian living proclamation?

Paul brings up God's wrath again in verse 15 and relates it to the Law. How does divine wrath related to the Law? Why do you think he brings this up?

What is the nature of faith and grace? How can we guard against thinking of faith as 'just another work'?

What point is Paul laboring to make as he brings up creation *ex nihilo* in verse 17? What is the significance of the argument for us?

Paul indicates that Abraham's faith never weakened (verses 19-22). Read the account of the interaction between God and Abraham in Genesis 15. Is Paul correct? Do Abraham's actions with Hagar cast doubt on Paul's interpretation? What is the nature of faith in God and living day-to-day life? Where could you show more faith?