**Father Abraham pt. 3: Faith Secures the Promise but the**

**Law Brings Wrath**

(Romans 4:13-15)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Revisit and Refresh:** What have you learned from Romans so far? What verses or sections have been most helpful? Why? What verses or sections have been most difficult? Why? Why do you think that Paul is spending so much time on the doctrine of justification by faith? In your own words, explain the following: “The theme of Romans is the revelation of God’s judging and saving righteousness in the gospel of Jesus Christ. In the cross of Christ, God judges sin and yet at the same time manifests his saving mercy.” (*ESV Study Bible*)
2. Review Genesis 12-22 and cite the promises made to Abraham. In your own words, explain how Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the promises made to Abraham. In your own words, explain what an “heir” is. How does Galatians 3:29 help us see the glorious reality that Paul is pointing to in Romans 4:13? How does this help you understand and endure the reality of present suffering in Romans 8:17?
3. Read and review Galatians 3:7-29. How does this text help interpret Romans 4:13-15? Who is the rightful heir of the promises made to Abraham? What are those promises? How do we, Jew or Gentile, obtain those promises? What other Scripture would you point to in order to make your case? How does Hebrews 11:8-10 help us understand Abraham’s mentality and focus? What did Jesus mean in John 8:56?
4. How should these promises impact your life? In what way(s) are you too earth-focused? What idols are robbing you of the joy of living with eternity in view? How can rooting your identity deeper into your union with Christ, the true heir, give you hope and joy amidst the pain of this life? In what specific way(s) can you personally apply Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 15:17-28? In light of these promises, why do you think Paul is stressing justification by faith alone? Why is a works-based mentality so deadly? What is at stake? Are you personally clinging to Christ in faith?