



Look Up

- The gospel of Matthew begins with these words: “This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac...” The promise of the Messiah was built on another promise. God came to the childless Abraham and said that he would be the father of a great nation. And that God would bless that nation. And that through that nation, God would bless the world. He ultimately did that by sending his son, Jesus, into the world through the nation of Israel. God had a long-range plan in mind when he first spoke that promise to Abraham. God’s promises often unfold much slower than we’d like!
- Read Romans 4:16-25 several times as a group. Pair up and practice telling the passage to each other in your own words.

What especially caught your attention as you read this passage? What did you like? What is challenging or difficult to understand?

- What do you think it was like for Abraham and Sarah to get the promise of a child when they were both old and had never been able to have children?
- Have you been in a situation where you hoped for something “against all hope”?
- Verse 19 says that Abraham had to face certain facts – facts that were “evidence” against believing God’s

promise. If someone were to examine your life, what facts could they point to that support the idea that God probably is not going to do anything significant in you or through you? What promises do you hold onto that stand against those “facts”?

What does this passage say about God? What does it say about us?

- Read verse 17 again. God gives life to the dead. God calls into being things that are not. What does this say about God? Have you experienced this in your life? What is something that is currently “not” that you are praying for God to call into being?
- What things can cause you to waver in your faith in God? What can help you be “fully persuaded that God has power to do what he has promised”?

Look Ahead

- Take a few minutes to reflect quietly on what you have discussed.
- What is one thing that God is asking you to change in light of this passage?
- What is the name of the person you will share this passage with this week?
- Take a few minutes to pray for one another.