

Group Time Sharing Questions

(A) Questions on the Text (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

In this session we learn how God makes it possible for all men to be justified through faith because of His promise to Abraham, who was blessed for his faith. The questions below will help you understand the background of God's promise to Abraham and how this promise came to be – due to Abraham's faith and not his works.

1. God speaks to Abram in 12:1-3 and makes an amazing promise. What is it? What does God ask Abram to do in order for the promise to be granted (Gen 12:1)?
2. Do you think God gave Abram His promise because of what Abram did in Gen 12:4, or because of a certain quality in Abram that was pleasing to God?
3. God's promise to Abram is further solidified in Gen 17:1-8. Was Abram circumcised at this time in his life (hint: read Gen 17:9-11)?
4. So what can we conclude about the relationship between righteousness (being pleasing to God) and circumcision?

<p>Genesis 創世紀 12:1-4</p>	<p>¹The LORD said to Abram: "Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. ²"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you." ⁴ Abram went as the LORD directed him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.</p>	<p>¹上主對亞巴郎說：「離開你的故鄉、你的家族和父家，往我指給你的地方去。²我要使你成爲一個大民族，我必祝福你，使你成名，成爲一個福源。³我要祝福那祝福你的人，咒罵那咒罵你的人；地上萬民都要因你獲得祝福。」⁴亞巴郎遂照上主的吩咐起了身，羅特也同他一起走了。亞巴郎離開哈蘭時，已七十五歲。</p>
<p>Genesis 創世紀 17:1-11</p>	<p>¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said: "I am God the Almighty. Walk in my presence and be blameless. ²Between you and me I will establish my covenant, and I will multiply you exceedingly." ³When Abram prostrated himself, God continued to speak to him: ⁴"My covenant with you is this: you are to become the father of a host of nations. ⁵No longer shall you be called Abram; your name shall be Abraham, for I am making you the father of a host of nations. ⁶I will render you exceedingly fertile; I will make nations of you; kings shall stem from you. ⁷I will maintain my covenant with you and your descendants after you throughout the ages as an everlasting pact, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸I will give to you and to your descendants after you the land in which you are now staying, the whole land of Canaan, as a permanent possession; and I will be their God." ⁹God also said to Abraham: "On your part, you and your descendants after you must keep my covenant throughout the ages. ¹⁰This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you that you must keep: every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹Circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and that shall be the mark of the covenant between you and me.</p>	<p>立割損禮 ¹亞巴郎九十九歲時，上主顯現給他，對他說：「我是全能的天主，你當在我面前行走，作個成全的人。²我要與你立約，使你極其繁盛。」³亞巴郎遂俯伏在地；天主又對他說：⁴「看，是我與你立約：你要成爲萬民之父；⁵以後，你不再叫做亞巴郎，要叫做亞巴辣罕，因爲我已立定你爲萬民之父，⁶使你極其繁衍，成爲一大民族，君王要由你而出。⁷我要在我與你和你歷代後裔之間，訂立我的約，當作永久的約，就是我要做你和你後裔的天主。⁸我必將你現今僑居之地，即客納罕全地，賜給你和你的後裔做永久的產業；我要作他們的天主。」⁹天主又對亞巴郎說：「你和你的後裔，世世代代應遵守我的約。¹⁰這就是你們應遵守的，在我與你們以及你的後裔之間所立的約：你們中所有的男子都應受割損。¹¹你們都應割去肉體上的包皮，作爲我與你們之間的盟約的標記。</p>

(B) Session Review (Suggested time: 20 minutes)

Review today's session outline for the Navigator's Time, particularly the summary (item F). What is the most important point you learned from today's session? Why? Are there any issues discussed in today's Navigator's Time that you don't understand? Discuss them with your group members and see if they can help you. If satisfactory answers are not readily available, put the issues or questions on paper. Either bring them up during Q&A or submit them to the navigator for post-session response.

(C) Optional

God's promise of blessing to you is extravagant and staggering. In the words of St. Paul, it is what "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9). What difference does it make to you that God does not ask you to be good enough for Him to bless you, but because He blesses you, He asks you to be good?

Web links

http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/_INDEX.HTM

<http://www.catholic.org.tw/bible/index.htm>

<http://www.cathlinks.org/ccc-toc.htm>

<http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/ccc.html>