

2009-2010 *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible study

“To God’s Beloved: Paul’s Letter to the Romans”

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## **Session 2: The Obedience of Faith**

In this Session 2 of our study of Paul’s letter to the Romans, our focus will be on Chapter 4 of the Book of Romans, where Paul explores the connection of Abraham to both Jews and Gentiles as part of their connection to the faith and promises that come from God.

Paul is very interested in exploring how Abraham’s faith was reckoned to him as righteousness. We might say how his faith justified him before he or any of his household were circumcised. Abraham is able to be a father in faith and faithfulness for Gentile believers who were not circumcised when they came to believe and Jews who were. And therefore he’s a very important figure for holding together all believers in Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God. You might say Abraham is about church unity.

You again will find some vocabulary that is a little unfamiliar to you and have a chance to explore it in your session. Particularly attend to the word *flesh*. It means so much more than just body or that stuff you can pinch and feel in real life—it refers to the whole way the world works on us and sets our standards. Think also carefully about another “F” word, the word *faithful* and *faithfulness*. These two words, *flesh* and *faithfulness*, will be important ones in your understanding of Abraham and Paul.