

FATHER ABRAHAM

First Presbyterian Church of Bakersfield
2026 April-June Sermon Series Study Guide

Galatians 3:6-14 (NIV)

6 So also Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”[a]

7 Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. 8 Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”[b] 9 So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

10 For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”[c] 11 Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.”[d] 12 The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.”[e] 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”[f] 14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

Footnotes: [a] Gen. 15:6; [b] Gen. 12:3; 18:18; 22:18; [c] Deut. 27:26; [d] Hab. 2:4; [e] Lev. 18:5; [f] Deut. 21:23

Children of Abraham

OPEN

- What “family ties” (blessings and curses) have been handed down to you?
- We are taking a break from our study in Genesis today to help us understand the importance of Abraham for all Christians. Read Galatians 3:6-14.

STUDY

- Looking at verses 6-9, what do we know about Abraham? About his children?
- The word “gospel” means “good news”. How does the Apostle Paul (the writer of this letter) describe “the gospel” in verses 7-9? How is that good news for both Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews)?
- What do we know about “the law” and its limitations from verses 10-12?
- What are the advantages of living by faith, according to verses 13 & 14?
- Paul is writing this letter to Jewish and Gentile believers who, after beginning to live by faith in Christ, have begun relying on the law for justification (approval by God). Discuss why you think they (and we) so often fall into the habit of “working” for God’s approval rather than relying on faith.
- How can we counteract that tendency?
- What impresses you about Abraham, given this bent towards “works”?
- What impresses you about Christ and his “work” described in verses 13-14?

PRAY

- Thank God for the example of Abraham and for the work of Christ on our behalf. Pray that we might live more by faith every day!