#### **Discovery Service Order and Message Outline**



WELCOME TO CEC	Assistant Pastor Chris
SINGING TOGETHER	This is amazing grace
PRAYER	
SINGING TOGETHER	Your grace is enough
UPDATES	Assistant Pastor Chris
SINGING TOGETHER	Grace
BIBLE READING	Romans 4:1-25 (Church Bible page 1183)
MESSAGE	Taught by Pastor Phill
COMMUNION	Come behold the wondrous mystery
	Behold the lamb
	Vot not I but Christ in man



# Faith in action ~1 How to have a strong faith. Romans 4:16-25

'Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.' Hebrews 11:6 NIV

'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.' Ephesians 2:8 NIV

'Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.' Romans 5:1-2 NIV

'This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.' 1 John 5:4 NIV

'What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.' Hebrews 11:1 NLT

# **1. Strong faith is received as a** of God. 'Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace.' Romans 4:16 NIV

'As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.' Ephesians 2:1 NIV

'For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.' Romans 12:3 NIV

'So that's why faith is the key! God's promise is given to us as a free gift.' Romans 4:13 NLT

'Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.' Romans 10:17 NIV

# 2. Strong faith releases the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of God

'Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed.' Romans 4:16 NIV

'And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.' Matthew 13:58 NIV

#### 3. Strong faith respects the \_\_\_\_\_ of God

'As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.' Romans 4:17 NIV

'Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead.'

Romans 4:19 NIV

'Those who know you, Lord, will trust you.' Psalm 9:10 TEV

'Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Romans 4:18 NIV

'A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time.' Titus 1:2 NIV

### 4. Strong faith follows the of God.

'Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.' Romans 4:20-21 NIV

'By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.' Hebrews 11:8 NIV

'It was by faith that Sarah together with Abraham was able to have a child, even though they were too old and Sarah was barren. Abraham believed that God would keep his promise. And so a whole nation came from this one man, Abraham, who was too old to have any children—a nation with so many people that, like the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore, there is no way to count them.' Hebrews 11:11-12 NLT

'Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was declared right with God because of what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see, he was trusting God so much that he was willing to do whatever God told him to do. His faith was made complete by what he did—by his actions. And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, so God declared him to be righteous." He was even called "the friend of God." So you see, we are made right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.'

James 2:21-24 NLT

'But someone will say, "One person has faith, another has actions." My answer is, "Show me how anyone can have faith without actions. I will show you my faith by my actions." Faith without actions is dead.' James 3:18 & 26 TEV

'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!' 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

'Whosoever believes on him shall not be ashamed.' Romans 10:11 KJV

'If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.' Luke 9:26 NIV

## 5. Strong faith reflects the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of God.

'Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God.' Romans 4:20 NLT

'All who believe in the Son of God know that this is true. Those who don't believe this are actually calling God a liar because they don't believe what God has testified about his Son. And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. So whoever has God's Son has life; whoever does not have his Son does not have life.' 1 John 5:10-12 NLT

'Now this wonderful truth—that God declared him to be righteous—wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was for us, too, assuring us that God will also declare us to be righteous if we believe in God, who brought Jesus our Lord back from the dead. He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised from the dead to make us right with God.'

Romans 4:23-25 NLT



- 1. How would you describe strong faith?
- 2. Read Hebrews 11:6, Ephesians 2:8, Romans 5:1-2, Hebrews 11:1. Faith is taking God at His word. In light of these verses and this statement, how would you now describe strong faith?

- 3. Read Romans 4:16-25.
  - Why is faith a gift of God?
  - What is the relationship between faith and grace? v16.
  - How can we experience the assurance of saving faith? v16
  - Why can we trust God to save us by faith? v17-19.
  - How does faith in God help us with the guidance of God? v20-21
  - How does strong faith reflect the glory of God? v20
- 4. Read Hebrews 11:8-12. How can we have a faith like Abraham's?
- 5. Read James 2:21-24. In what ways does obedience prove we have a trusting faith in God?
- 6. Based on this week's message and Life Group discussion, how would you help someone who has a lack of assurance of their faith, or they don't feel they have a strong faith?



Watch and listen to the message again, or an archived message by going to www.youtube.com/cowplainchurch.