CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below). Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?

2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 15:1-6; Romans 3:21-4:8

SERMON OUTLINE:

I. A Personal GodII. A Saving FaithIII. An Imputed Righteousness

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group. Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Review Genesis 15:1-6. We said that God is a personal, powerful, and promise keeping God. How do we see this Abram's life? How have you seen this in your own life?

2. Genesis 15:6 is an extremely important verse that speaks of Abram's faith. Understanding the nature of true saving faith is of utmost importance for us as Christians. How would you answer this question: If God asked you "why should I let you into Heaven?" what would you say?

3. Read through Romans 3:21-28. What specific things does Paul talk about in these verses that we must believe in order to be saved? Think specifically about these things and why they are important:

- The object of our faith (v22)

- The nature of salvation (24)

- The work of Christ (v25)

- The transfer of trust (v28)

4. Abram's faith was **counted** as righteousness. How is this different from his faith producing or earning righteousness?

5. Re-read Romans 4:5. God justified (counted righteous) the ungodly. This means we live in the dual reality of being both unrighteous and righteous at the same time. What are some of the implications of this? How does it impact how you see yourself? Others?

6. God practices imputation with us – he calls us righteous even though we are not righteous. By doing this we are at the same time being made righteous (because God's word has power). Your words have power too. How can you practice imputation with others in your life? Your spouse? Your children? Your co-workers? Friends? Parents? Etc. Think about scriptures like Ephesians 5:21; Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:23.

Pray: Honor God as a personal, powerful, and promise keeping God. Praise Him for imputed righteousness. Confess areas where you have placed your faith in something other than Christ. Ask God to show you how you can encourage others with your words (can you impute righteousness to someone?).