

**Romans: Delighting in God's Divine Purpose**  
**Romans 9:1-29**  
**Group Discussion Questions**

**Read Romans 9:1-29**

In Romans chapters 1-8, Paul thoroughly explains man's need and God's provision in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. He then goes on in chapters 12-15 to teach practical living as believers in Christ. Paul takes an intentional moment in chapters 9-11 to discuss Israel's rejection of Christ and to reveal God's plan for both Jew and Gentile.

**Read Romans 9:1-5**

Paul moves from great joy in chapter 8 to deep sorrow.

- Why does Paul affirm 3 times that his sorrow is true? Keep in mind Paul's history with the Jewish nation and his life before Christ and after Christ.
- Why is he so sorrowful?
- Do you have the same sorrow for the lost? If not, what hinders us from having the same level of grief that Paul displayed, for those who are lost? What steps can you take to help cultivate the type of heart Paul had for the lost?

**Read Romans 9:6-13**

**Look again at Romans 9:6-8**

- What does it mean that "not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel"? How does Galatians 3:7-9 help you further understand this passage?

**Look again at Romans 9:9-13**

- Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Genesis 15:2-6. On what basis did God choose to bless Abraham with a son? (Think back to who Abraham was and his background). Going further, on what basis did God choose to bless all nations through Abraham's offspring?
- Read Genesis 25:19-26. From both the Genesis and Roman's passages, on what basis did God choose the younger brother, Isaac, to be served by the older brother, Esau? What do you know about birth rights in ancient times? Why is this so significant?
- Verse 13 quotes Malachi 1:1-5. Paul's reference to Jacob and Esau is not necessarily about the individuals named Jacob and Esau but more particularly about the nations descended from them, i.e. Israel and Edom.
- How does this passage help inform your understanding of faith and works?

### **Read Romans 9:14-18**

- How many times is the word mercy used in this passage? What does mercy mean?
- Do you have an accurate understanding of your own sin? How does our understanding of our own sinfulness help us understand the depth of God's mercy? Read Romans 1:18-32 and Ephesians 2:1-5 for help.
- What do these verses show us about God's character?

### **Read Romans 9:19-29**

- Read Job 38:1-4. What similarities do you see between the Lord's response to Job and Paul's response to his rhetorical questions?
- How might innate pride impact the way you read this passage? How might a posture of humility impact the way you read this passage?
- Paul quotes Hosea 2:23 and 1:10. How does Paul quoting Hosea relate to what he has been arguing in Romans regarding the inclusion of Gentiles in God's plan of salvation?
- What do these verses show us about God's character?

Isaiah 46:10-11 says, "I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do."

Isaiah 55:9 says, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

What steps can you take to cultivate a faith that trusts in God's plans despite not fully understanding His ways?