



ROMANS CHAPTER 9 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- If you had only wish and you couldn't use it on or on behalf of anyone else besides yourself and you also couldn't use it to wish for other wishes, what would that one wish be?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.
- Please use your own style, voice, and approach in preparing for leading your life group. Most importantly, take a few minutes to pray over the time together with you group and pray over each group member by name.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (Romans 9:1-33)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Romans 9:1-5

- In Romans chapters 1-8, Paul makes the “case” that no one can be saved and forgiven of their sins outside of the blood of Jesus Christ. In Romans chapters 9-11, Paul is expressing his heartbreak and anguish over some of his fellow Jews who have refused to accept Jesus Christ and His invitation of salvation and grace. While it may be easy to wonder why in the world anyone wouldn’t accept Jesus and what He offers, try to put yourself in the “shoes” of the individuals that Paul is talking about in these chapters.

- At the end of chapter 8, Paul is super pumped and excited for the work of Jesus in people’s lives including his own. But chapter 9 starts out with a much more somber and sorrowful tone because of the spiritual condition of people he loves who have chosen to reject Jesus.
 - What do Paul’s words indicate about his heart for those who chose to not accept Jesus? In what ways is this convicting and inspiring to you? Would you say that you view people who don’t yet know Jesus in the same ways that Paul did?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

 - What is so sad about the things that Paul says in verse 4?
 - For the Jews who rejected Jesus, it wasn’t like they didn’t have knowledge of and information about Jesus. He was promised to them. They, “to use some of our language from today,” “grew up in and around the church” as far as being taught about God and Jesus. But rather than surrendering to Jesus and accept His invitation of grace and mercy, they chose to go their own way and do their own thing.
 - In what ways has your faith in God or lack thereof sometimes been more rooted in information about Jesus rather than transformation because of Jesus?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Romans 9:6-13

- Have you ever doubted that the word of God and the power of God can change you or someone around you? Why?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
 - In this section of Scripture, Paul wants his audience and readers to understand that even when people choose to reject God, this doesn't mean that God, His power, His word, or His ability have failed or faltered simply because of an individual's decision.
 - Why is this important to remember as a Christian, especially in our conversations and relationships with people who may not yet have made the decision to follow Jesus?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Romans 9:14-33

- This part of Scripture is not easy to understand and wrestle with so in your groups, please exercise caution, wisdom, and discernment in how you approach the text and especially in allowing individuals within your group to go on rants or tangents.
- In certain parts of this text, it seems like God is taking free will away from individuals but it's important to read this passage in the context of Romans chapters 9-11 understanding that Paul is expressing his heartbreak of his fellow Jews who have chosen to not accept Jesus and His invitation for them. With these things in mind, consider the following questions.
 - Reread verse 15. In what ways are you actively and daily embracing the mercy and compassion that God showers on you? What does this look like in your daily life?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
 - Reread verses 30-33. How do you pursue God in faith relying on His power rather than pursuing God relying on your performance and your own power? What does this look like in your daily life?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Romans chapter 10)

ROMANS CHAPTER 9 (STUDENT)

Romans 9:1-5

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What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?