



## A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families For the week of May 14, 2023

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

### Warm Up

- What is “grace”?
- When is the grace of God clear to you? When is it hard to see to grace of God?

### Romans 11:1-36

### God & Israel

<sup>1</sup>I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup>God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? <sup>3</sup>“Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.” <sup>4</sup>But what is God's reply to him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” <sup>5</sup>So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. <sup>6</sup>But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

- What evidence does Paul give to prove that God has not rejected the Jews?

---

<sup>7</sup>What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, <sup>8</sup>as it is written,

“God gave them a spirit of stupor,  
eyes that would not see  
and ears that would not hear,  
down to this very day.”

<sup>9</sup>And David says,

“Let their table become a snare and a trap,  
a stumbling block and a retribution for them;  
<sup>10</sup>let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see,  
and bend their backs forever.”

- How does the word “retribution” (9) answer the person who says “It is unfair of God to harden a person’s heart and mind toward the Gospel! They never had a chance!”?
- How is it possible to so want to please God that you reject his love for you (7)? Have you seen this happen?

---

<sup>11</sup>So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. <sup>12</sup>Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

<sup>13</sup>Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry <sup>14</sup>in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. <sup>15</sup>For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? <sup>16</sup>If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

- What does Paul mean when he says he seeks to make unbelievers, especially Jewish unbelievers “jealous” (11)? Isn’t that stirring up bad motives?

---

<sup>17</sup> But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, <sup>18</sup> do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. <sup>19</sup> Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." <sup>20</sup> That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. <sup>21</sup> For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. <sup>22</sup> Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. <sup>23</sup> And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. <sup>24</sup> For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

- **How does the olive tree metaphor warn the Gentiles? How does it square with what Paul taught previously about the certainty of our salvation?**

---

<sup>25</sup> Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup> And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written,

"The Deliverer will come from Zion,  
he will banish ungodliness from Jacob";  
<sup>27</sup> "and this will be my covenant with them  
when I take away their sins."

<sup>28</sup> As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for

the sake of their forefathers. <sup>29</sup> For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

- **What is the "mystery" Paul now reveals? (25)**
- **What does Paul mean when he writes that "all Israel will be saved"? (26)**

---

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

<sup>34</sup> "For who has known the mind of the Lord,  
or who has been his counselor?"

<sup>35</sup> "Or who has given a gift to him  
that he might be repaid?"

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

- **Paul breaks into spontaneous worship. Why?**
- **Considering the grace of God in Jesus Christ compels Paul to glorify God. How has the Gospel lead you praise God lately?**
- **Pray together in light of this week's passage.**

---

To hear sermons and access past study guides visit  
[www.wepc.org/resources/sermons-media-study-guide](http://www.wepc.org/resources/sermons-media-study-guide)

Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene,  
[kevin@wepc.org](mailto:kevin@wepc.org)

