

In these opening verses of **chapter 9**, Paul reveals his heart for his people the Jews. In doing so, he teaches us a lesson about the kind of heart we should have for the lost around us.

FACILITATOR: Our introductory idea in this chapter was the fact that we cannot reach any person or people group before we have **EMPATHY** for them. **READ: Romans 9:1-5**

That is what God felt. That is what Paul felt. That is what we must feel.

The next portion of our time will be spent raising more questions than answers.

FACILITATOR: Please encourage the group that while we may disagree, we aren't here to change anyone's mind - That's the job of the Holy Spirit.

The most **IMPORTANT** thing for us individually to ask is: Am I a child of the **Promise**?

Paul wants his Jewish readers to understand that **salvation** is a divine experience. That is, it always begins and ends with **God**.

9:14-29 The following terms or concepts can be taken from this passage: **DISCUSS** Divine Selection. Divine Sovereignty. Divine Salvation

FACILITATOR: Read the following statement...

It's difficult to articulate the truths in this chapter. In fact, some of you will probably leave here with many more questions regarding the matter of salvation, the sovereignty of God and the will of man.

I wish we had all the answers! But we don't! No one who wears a robe of flesh does.

These are deep truths. Truths concerning which there is much debate and controversy.

If we can accept the fact that God is sovereign over salvation, we can accept that fact that all of life is left to His divine choices. If we can accept that then we can praise Him that we are numbered among the chosen, the redeemed.

Can you? Remember, while this is confusing and hard to grasp, the bottom line is this "if you want to be saved, you can be!"

Close by reading **Romans 9:30-33**

Careful! I've put a huge stone on the road to Mount Zion, a stone you can't get around.

But the stone is me! If you're looking for me, you'll find me **on** the way, not **in** the way.