

Sermon Discussion Guide

Icebreaker

Have you ever looked back on a difficult season in your life and later realized God was doing something bigger than you understood at the time?

- What changed your perspective when you looked back?
- Why is it often hard to trust God’s plan in the moment?

Discussion Questions

1. One Gospel for Everyone

Paul repeatedly emphasizes that both Jews and Gentiles are sinners and both are justified by faith.

- Why do you think people naturally want to divide themselves into “insiders” and “outsiders”?
- How does the gospel challenge ideas of spiritual superiority or exclusion?

2. Faith vs. Effort (Romans 9–10)

Paul explains that some pursued righteousness through the law while others received it through faith.

- What are some modern ways people try to earn righteousness or prove themselves worthy before God?
- Why is faith—rather than works—the doorway into God’s family?

3. The Olive Tree (Romans 11)

Paul uses the metaphor of branches grafted into an olive tree to describe Gentiles being included in God’s people.

- What does this picture teach us about humility in the Christian life?
- Why is it important to remember that we are part of God’s story by grace, not by entitlement?

4. Trusting God’s Bigger Plan

Romans 9–11 shows that God’s plan for Israel and the nations is larger than anyone expected.

- Where do you struggle to trust that God is still working even when things don’t make sense?
- How does remembering God’s faithfulness in Scripture strengthen our faith today?

Takeaway

The story of salvation has always been bigger than human expectations. God’s redemptive plan is built on **grace, mercy, and faith**, not heritage, rules, or human effort.

Because of Jesus, the invitation is open to **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord**.

This week, reflect on this question:

Am I trusting God’s grace and plan, or am I trying to build my identity on something else?

The gospel reminds us that **God’s faithfulness is bigger than our failures, our divisions, and even our understanding**.