LifeGroup Discussion Guide

Scripture: Romans 9:1–18

Opening Discussion

1. Have you ever experienced a situation where God's plan didn't make sense to you? How did that experience affect your trust in Him?

2. Romans 9 begins with Paul's deep sorrow over his fellow Israelites who have rejected Christ. What does Paul's response teach us about how we should view people who don't know Jesus?

1. God's Sovereignty Doesn't Diminish Our Compassion (vv. 1–5)

3. Paul expresses such a deep burden for the lost that he says he could wish himself cut off from Christ for their sake. What might change in our lives if we shared Paul's urgency for people who need the gospel?

4. Israel had tremendous spiritual privileges, yet many still rejected Christ. What are some ways people today might confuse religious activity, family heritage, or church involvement with a genuine relationship with Jesus?

2. God's Promises Don't Depend on Human Performance (vv. 6–13)

5. In verse 6, Paul declares that God's Word has not failed. Why is this statement so important in light of Israel's rejection of Christ? How does it strengthen our confidence in God's promises today?

6. Paul uses Isaac and Ishmael, then Jacob and Esau, to demonstrate that God's purposes are rooted in His gracious calling rather than human achievement. Why is it sometimes difficult for us to accept that God's grace cannot be earned?

7. We often measure our standing with God by how well we're doing spiritually. How does knowing that our salvation rests on God's faithfulness rather than our performance change the way we respond to our failures and weaknesses?

3. God's Mercy Is a Gift, Not Something We're Owed (vv. 14–18)

8. Paul anticipates the question, "Is God unjust?" How does understanding the difference between justice and mercy help us think through difficult questions about God's sovereignty?

9. The account of Pharaoh reminds us that God remains sovereign even when people resist Him. How can this truth give us confidence when we see evil, injustice, or circumstances that seem beyond our control?

Personal Application

10. Paul believed deeply in God's sovereignty, yet he continued praying for the lost and sharing the gospel. Who is someone in your life you've been praying would come to Christ? What is one practical step you can take this week to demonstrate Christ's love or share the gospel with them?