

# Small Group Discussion Guide (25 Minutes)

## Romans 11:1–24

God Has a Sovereign Right to Define His Covenant People



Know It

### A Remnant by Grace (Romans 11:1–10)

**Key Truth:** God has not rejected His people. There is always a remnant chosen by grace.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. In verse 1, Paul says, “Absolutely not!” Why is it important that Paul answers so strongly?
2. Paul uses Elijah’s story to show that even when things look spiritually dead, God preserves a remnant.
  - Where do you see discouragement like Elijah’s today?
  - How does knowing God always preserves a faithful remnant encourage you?
3. Verse 6 says, “If by grace, then it is not by works.”
  - Why is this distinction crucial to understanding who belongs to God’s covenant people?
  - How do we subtly drift toward “works” instead of grace?

#### Takeaway:

Belonging to God’s covenant people has never been based on ethnicity, performance, or effort — but grace.

### Israel’s Hardening Has a Redemptive Purpose (Romans 11:11–15)

Read verses 11–15 aloud.

**Key Truth:** Israel’s stumbling is not final — God uses it to bring salvation to the nations.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Verse 11 says they stumbled but did not fall beyond recovery.
  - What is the difference between stumbling and falling beyond hope?

2. How does this passage show God’s sovereignty in using even rejection and failure for redemption?
3. Verse 14 says Paul hopes to make Israel jealous through Gentile salvation.
  - What kind of faith would make others spiritually jealous?
  - Does your life display joy, assurance, and transformation in a way that draws others toward Christ?
4. Verse 15 speaks of “life from the dead.”
  - What do you think Paul means by this?
  - Where have you seen God bring spiritual life out of apparent loss?

**Takeaway:**

God’s plan is bigger than immediate circumstances. He weaves even unbelief into a global redemption story.

**The Olive Tree: Defined by Faith (Romans 11:16–24)**

**Read verses 17–22 aloud.**

**Key Truth:** God defines His covenant people by faith in Christ.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What does the olive tree represent?  
(Hint: covenant promises rooted in God’s redemptive plan.)
2. Why does Paul warn Gentile believers not to boast?
3. Verse 20 says, “You stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but beware.”
  - What does spiritual arrogance look like today?
  - Why is humility essential for those grafted in by grace?
4. Verse 22 speaks of both God’s kindness and severity.
  - Why is it important to hold both together?
  - What happens when churches emphasize only one?
5. Verse 23 gives hope: even hardened branches can be grafted in again.
  - How does this shape how we pray for those who seem spiritually resistant?

**Takeaway:**

Faith, not heritage or performance, is the defining mark of God’s covenant people.

## Bringing It Together

### The Big Picture:

**The Principle:** God has a sovereign right to define His covenant people.

**The Criteria:** Faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

**The Plan:** He uses Israel's stumble to send the gospel to the nations and Gentile faithfulness to provoke Israel to jealousy.

### The Posture:

- Severity toward persistent unbelief
- Kindness toward all who believe
- Real hope that even the hardened can be restored



### Live It

## Final Reflection Question

Which of these truths challenges or encourages you most right now:

- Trusting God's sovereign plan?
- Resting fully in grace?
- Guarding against spiritual pride?
- Holding both kindness and severity together?
- Hoping for the restoration of someone who seems hardened?



### Prayer

Close in prayer:

- Thank God for grace.
- Ask for humility.
- Pray for those who are hardened.
- Ask that your life would provoke holy jealousy by displaying joyful faith.