Home Group Notes
Week of October 11, 2026
ALIVE! Through Faith in Jesus Christ
Romans 11

Hello Friends. Jesus called us to love each other such that people would recognize us as His disciples. Our trademark is love. To do that requires us to grow in trust, the fabric of love. Let's make safety, sacrifice, and care a top priority in our friendships.

As you prepare for your time together, keep in mind that there are two parts to these notes, "Your time" and "Group time." The first is an opportunity for you to learn from God's Word as you read, listen, and learn. This will help you and the whole group to have an enriching time together. The second part are discussion questions for when you meet. Enjoy!

YOUR TIME OF LISTENING IN GOD'S WORD

We are continuing in chapters 9-11 that are focused on how the nation of Israel responded to Jesus Christ and His good news. The apostle, Paul, is grieved and concerned for "my people," the Jews. Many of them ignored, disbelieved, and even opposed their Messiah. Paul is answering several questions that the church in Rome and many others were asking: If God chose Israel to reveal Himself, His word, and worship to the world, did the "word of God fail?" In chapter eleven, Paul is addressing another concern regarding Israel: "Has God rejected His people?"

An extended outline of the chapter might look like the following:

1) Has God rejected His people, the Jewish nation? By no means (1-6)
    a. I (Paul) am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham
    b. God has not rejected His people. There are some that He foreknew to be faithful.
    c. We learn from the example of the times of Elijah that God has more faithful Jewish believers.
    d. Even now there is a faithful remnant who believe and were then chosen (elect) by grace to follow Jesus (cf, John 6:37, 44; 17:2)
2) God hardened (with purpose) many Jews who were antagonistic towards Him and these failed to obtain salvation in Christ (7-10)
3) Does that mean that the Jews were permanently cut off? (11-12)
    a. By no means! Through their trespass salvation has come to gentiles throughout the world.
    b. God will use the gentiles in His cause to make Israel jealous
4) You Gentiles need to understand God's plan for the world. (13-24)
    a. The inclusion of Gentiles will help reach Jews to turn to Christ who will then help others turn to Christ (13-15)
    Note: Paul used the symbol of an olive tree (from Jeremiah 11) to illustrate that the unbelieving Jews are like branches broken off the tree.
    b. You Gentiles should not be arrogant toward the Jews who are currently in unbelief and cut off from God, for you were grafted into God's holy olive tree to which you are dependent. (16-18)

c. It's true that God used the broken branches of the Jews to graft you in, but remember that they were cut off because of unbelief and you are connected by faith, so be humble and fear God. (19-22)
d. Remember that God can graft back in that those who cease in unbelief (i.e. have faith in Christ) for they are the "natural branches" and you the "wild" branches. (23-24)

5) All who are true Israel, both Jews and Gentiles, are saved "in this way" through "belief," that is, by faith in Christ Jesus, "the Deliverer," to form God's family. (see also Chapter ten). (25-32)

a. Now, Jews and Gentiles are in God's covenant that came through Christ who takes away their sins
b. Currently, some Jews are enemies of the gospel, but they are beloved for the sake of their role in God's plans.
c. Both groups, Jews and Gentiles, have been disobedient and are now dependent on mercy.

Doxology: All glory to God for His wisdom and mercy to use the hardening of Israel to bring together Jews and Gentiles, the true Israel, the church, into His covenant of grace. (33-36)

Read chapter eleven and consider these questions and suggestions.
After reading this chapter, what do we learn about God? What does He want for people?

What is the primary problem of all people? What would change this?

Reread chapter eleven and make a list of all that God, in kindness, accomplished for those of faith in Him? (For example: No longer cut off from God. This is a real blessing to see.)

What do we learn from the illustration of the olive tree? What is God's master plan?

The final "doxology" praises God for His wisdom, knowledge, judgments and ways. What calls up praise in you from what you have learned?

This is the last chapter that Paul is addressing theology. What have you learned about the theme introduced in 1:16-17 and the instruction in 10:8-13? Could you share this with someone who is not yet a believer? (Some call this the "Roman Road")

GROUP TIME: DISCUSSION OF APPLICATION FROM GOD'S WORD

Can you think of a time when mercy has been shown to you? What did you feel?

The chapter begins with a question: "Has God rejected His people?" How does Paul address this question and the implications?

Have you ever felt like God rejected you? What helps? How can we help others?

There is a famous line in a Star Wars movie: "Great, kid. Don't get cocky!" Why does Paul say something like this? What does this mean? (vs. 17-22)

From Paul's teaching about the Olive Tree, what is God's master plan for Jews and Gentiles? (16-24)

A challenge: This is a complicated chapter. How are verses 30-32 a summary of God's work in all people? How is this truth also seen in the previous chapters in Romans?

The chapter concludes with praise and thanksgiving for God. What helps you live in daily thanksgiving? What gets in the way?