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

Our focus for this week is to see the kindness, wisdom, and mystery of God's plan to save people.

- Kindness of grace: God in kindness has grace for people. From the beginning, he knew that we would be disobedient, but is merciful to all who will turn to Him.
- Wisdom: From the beginning, God chose the Jews to reveal Himself and our need for righteousness. He chose to offer grace to all who would trust in Him instead of trusting in themselves. This included hardening the hard-hearted so that He could reveal His grace through Jesus.
- Mystery: His plan was always to include both Jews and Gentiles in His kingdom by what He did through Abraham and the Jews including their own hard-heartedness. God used their disobedience and rejection of Christ to graft in the Gentiles.

Be sure to read the chapter and the outline (see below) so that you understand the focus on God's wisdom, grace, and sovereign plan. Also, be selective and creative – these are only ideas.

Note: There are several questions designed to allow people to share their own thoughts and feelings. Be sure to allow time or rephrase the idea so that people might share.

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)

GROUP TIME: DISCUSSION OF APPLICATION FROM GOD'S WORD

OPEN with a SHARING QUESTION: We are in the time of the year that most high schools host a "homecoming" game or dance. What were some of the things that you did in high school to get known or accepted or liked or noticed? Did it work??

NOTE: Is this a good week to read through the Group Guidelines?

SHARE: Let's read through Romans chapter 11. Watch for the key questions and answers that begin with the Jews and then reveals God's master plan for all peoples.

ASK: What are your thoughts from this chapter?

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

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

ASK: Have you ever felt like God rejected you? What helps you see the truth of how God views you? How can we help others?

ASK: 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)

ASK: 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?

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

READ TOGETHER: Perhaps close by reading Romans 11:33-36 together.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SING? "Great is thy faithfulness"
Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou has been Thou forever will be.

Refrain
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness! Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

Refrain
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness! Lord unto me!

Grace to you,
Steve