

## God's Promises & Israel's Plight

### Key Scriptures

Rom. 9:1-10:3 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, <sup>2</sup> that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. <sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; <sup>5</sup> of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen. <sup>6</sup> But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, <sup>7</sup> nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called." <sup>8</sup> That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. <sup>9</sup> For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>10</sup> And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac <sup>11</sup> (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), <sup>12</sup> it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." <sup>13</sup> As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."

**Key Point:** God has not abandoned His people, Israel.

## TALK IT OVER

**Start talking:** Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- When going to a Pot-Luck, what kind of food do you most gravitate toward? (or run away from?)

**Start thinking.** Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Kyle talked about how many people skip over Romans 9-11 and jump right into chapter 12. Take some time as a group and read through Romans 9. What are some of the problems and questions that arise when you read this chapter? What does it say about God's choice in electing and predestining?
- How should each of the benefits Paul listed in v. 4-5 have drawn Jewish people to Christ?
- How does Paul account for their unbelief despite these advantages? (v. 6-9; see 4:11-12)

**Start sharing.** Choose a question to create openness.

- How deeply do you hurt for unbelievers? Why do you think this is so?
- Is there a danger in allowing your heart to harden toward those who are far from God, because of how they have treated you? (Paul definitely dealt with many who were against him; see 2 Tim 4:14, Rom 12:18-20)

**Start doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Purposefully think of neighbors or co-workers/class mates who are far from God. Pray for them daily and ask God to give you opportunities to share the gospel with them.

**Prayer Requests.** It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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