LifeGroup Study Sheet

July 23rd and 26th, 2026: Romans 9:1-14

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Talk about a time you assumed a situation was about you, and later realized it was about something, or someone else.

Digging In

Question 1: Read Romans 9:1-8. God is Faithful to His Word. Paul is grieving (v.1-3) because most of Israel rejected the Messiah, which raised a real crisis: did God's promise to Israel fail? What is God's answer in verse 6, and why does He need to redefine who "Israel" really is (v.6-8)?

Paul's logic is that God's Word was never a blanket promise to every physical descendant! It was always a promise tied to God's chosen line and purpose (Isaac, not Ishmael; Jacob, not Esau). Why does this strengthen the case for God's faithfulness rather than weaken it?

Where in your life right now does it feel like God hasn't kept His word? A prayer, a timeline, a season of waiting? How does this passage invite you to check your assumption about the promise before you question the Promiser?

Question 2: Read Romans 9:9-13. God is Fair in all His Ways. What reason does Paul give for God choosing Jacob over Esau (v.11-12)? What human standard of "fair" does that decision seem to violate at first glance? Paul says the choice was made "in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls." Why does grounding fairness in God's character and purpose, rather than in human performance or merit, protect His justice instead of threatening it?

When have you quietly accused God of being unfair? Whether it was a door closed for you but opened for someone else, an unanswered prayer, a disappointment that felt arbitrary? What changes in your thought process when you are trusting "Him who calls" rather than your idea of fairness?

Question 3: Read Romans 9:1-14. It's not about me; it's about God's Plan! Paul opens this chapter in personal anguish (v.1-3), willing to be "cursed" for his people! Then it pivots into a passage entirely about God's sovereign, unearned election. Why does he frame a chapter about God's plan around his own deep personal pain?

If God's calling and faithfulness rest on His Word and character rather than on our works, effort, or even our birth order, what does that say about whose story we're living in? How does that reframe the purpose of your life? Are you the main character, or a part in something larger?

Where this week do you need to move from "God, bless my plan" to "God, I trust Your plan?" Name a specific decision, relationship, or disappointment where that surrender needs to happen.

Application

1. God chose us before we were born, and we choose God after we are born (both are true)
2. Do I have a heart for those who are lost?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?
Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?
Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?
Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?