LifeGroup Study Sheet

July 30th and Aug 2nd, 2026: Romans 9:14-24

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

What's something you were convinced was unfair as a child, but now you realize made sense?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Romans 9:14-18, Isaiah 55:8-9. "God's Ways Are Not Our Ways." Paul anticipates the question, "Is God unjust?" His answer isn't to explain every mystery but to point us back to God's character. God's justice isn't measured by human standards; rather, our understanding must be shaped by who God is. Isaiah reminds us that God's thoughts and ways are infinitely higher than ours.

How does remembering that God's ways are higher than our ways change the way we respond when we don't understand what God is doing?

Why do you think our first instinct is often to put God on trial instead of trusting His character? Can you think of a season where God's plan seemed confusing but later proved to be wise or good? What's the difference between asking God honest questions and demanding that He explain Himself?

Question 2: Read Romans 9:14-18 and Exodus 33:18-34:8 "God's Mercy Displays His Glory." When Moses asks to see God's glory, God responds by proclaiming His name and declaring, "I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious." Immediately afterward, God reveals His character, and Moses' only response is worship (Exodus 34:8). Likewise, Paul points to God's mercy toward Moses and His dealings with Pharaoh to show that God's mercy is ultimately about displaying His glory.

How does seeing God's mercy as something meant to reveal His glory, not simply meet our needs, change the way we worship Him?

Why is it important that mercy is never something God owes us?

Moses didn't argue after hearing God's declaration of mercy, he worshiped! Why do you think worship was his response?

Question 3: Read Romans 9::19-24; Gensis 2:7, Exodus 3:14. "We Were Created for God's Glory and Worship." Romans 9 pictures God as the potter and humanity as the clay. Our purpose is found in the One who formed us. In Genesis 2:7, God breathes life into Adam, giving humanity life by His own breath. When God reveals His covenant name, "I AM" (YHWH) in Exodus 3:14, many have noted that the pronunciation of YHWH

resembles the sound of breathing, an image that beautifully reminds us that every breath belongs to God. While this is a devotional observation rather than a linguistic proof, it points us to a profound biblical truth: our lives originate from God and exist for His glory. Every breath is a gift meant to return in praise.

If every breath we have is a gift from God, how should that reshape the purpose of our everyday lives?

Romans 9 describes us as clay in the Potter's hands. Why is surrender often so difficult?

How do we know when we've begun living more for our own glory than God's?

Application

1. Do I trust God's wisdom when I don't understand His ways?
2. Does God's mercy lead me to worship or merely relief?
3. Am I using the breath God has given me to bring Him glory?

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?