PARTICIPANT HANDOUT | LESSON 17

Romans Part 3

Mercy for Jews and Gentiles

BIG IDEA God's sovereign mercy humbles both Jews and Gentiles and preserves hope for Israel within his saving purpose.

Series location: Lesson 17 of 24 | Romans 9-11

Primary texts: Romans 9:1-8; 10:9-15; 11:1-6, 17-32

Controlling question: Has God's word failed because many Israelites have not believed in Jesus?

Follow Paul's argument

PASSAGE	MOVEMENT
9:1-29	God's word has not failed; his promise advances through his call and mercy.
9:30-10:21	Israel stumbled over Christ, yet the gospel is near and offered to everyone who believes.
11:1-24	God preserves a Jewish remnant and warns grafted-in Gentiles not to boast.
11:25-36	Israel's hardening is partial; God's mercy moves history toward hope and worship.

Romans 9 and 10 belong together

GOD'S SOVEREIGN MERCY	THE HUMAN RESPONSE
The promise depends on God's call	Receive righteousness by faith
Mercy is not earned by ancestry or effort	Confess Jesus as Lord and believe God raised him
Human resistance cannot defeat God's purpose	Preach so that people may hear, believe, and call

Romans 9 removes entitlement. Romans 10 removes fatalism. Paul holds God's sovereignty and human responsibility together.

One olive tree

PICTURE	MEANING
A nourishing root	God's covenant promises associated with the patriarchs support the whole tree.
Natural branches broken off	Ethnic privilege cannot replace faith; unbelief is serious.
Wild branches grafted in	Gentiles enter by faith and have no grounds for superiority.
Natural branches grafted in again	God is able; the church should retain hope for Jewish faith in Christ.

PAUL'S ANSWER God has not rejected Israel. Israel's present unbelief is neither total nor final, and Gentile believers must not become conceited.

What does 'all Israel will be saved' mean?

LEADING VIEW	SUMMARY
Future turning of ethnic Israel	Israel as a people, though not necessarily every individual, turns broadly to Christ.
Jewish remnant across history	The full number of Jewish believers is gathered throughout the present age.
The whole people of God	The complete elect community of believing Jews and Gentiles is saved.

Whichever reading one takes, Paul gives no separate path of salvation apart from Christ and no reason for Gentile pride. God's story with Israel is not finished.

Discuss

1. Why does Paul begin this teaching with grief rather than detached argument?
2. How does the olive tree confront antisemitism and ordinary Christian pride?
3. Why is worship Paul's conclusion in Romans 11:33-36?

BEFORE NEXT WEEK Read Romans 12-16. Mark every 'therefore,' command, reference to the body or gifts, love, governing authorities, weak and strong believers, and welcoming one another.

FOR FURTHER STUDY
BibleProject, Romans 9-11 overview
Related: Genesis 18:16-33; Exodus 32-34; Jeremiah 18:1-12
ECO: III.A; III.B | Class resources: scan QR.