

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

Romans 11

Lesson 13

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. From your study of Romans 10, share a verse that ministered to you.

2. God's great plan has been unfolding throughout history. God is not finished with the world, mankind, or the Jews. Great and even greater things are still to come! At the present time, God works individually, bringing men to faith in Jesus Christ. Paul revealed that he, being a Jew, received Jesus as his Messiah like many of his countrymen. However, Israel as a nation had rejected Jesus. God is not finished with the nation of Israel. In Romans 11 Paul disclosed God's unfolding plan. God will fulfill every promise He made to them when He presents Jesus as their Deliverer from Zion. Israel, as a nation, has been *cut off* for a time in order to allow the Gentiles to receive Jesus. God promises that He will *graft* Israel back into His tree. In that day there will be even greater revelation and joy. Read the passages below and give a title to each section:
 - a. Romans 11:1-6

 - b. Romans 11:7-15

 - c. Romans 11:16-24

 - d. Romans 11:25-36

3. God's plans are everlasting and perfect! Ask God to open your eyes to see His unfolding plan.

*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*
Romans 11:33

SECOND DAY: Read Romans 11:1–6

1. Having demonstrated Israel's resistance to the Gospel, Paul asked, *Has God cast away His people?* (Romans 11:1a) Record his answer to this rhetorical question. Romans 11:1b
 - a. How did Paul support this statement? Romans 11:1c

2. In Romans 11:2 Paul used an event from the life of Elijah (1 Kings 19) to prove that *God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew*. Use Romans 11:2b–4 to answer the following questions:
 - a. What was Elijah's perspective on Israel?
 - b. What was Elijah's perspective about himself?
 - c. What did God point out to Elijah?
 - (1) How does this story minister to you?

3. Romans 11:5 (NLT) says, *It is the same today, for a few of the people of Israel have remained faithful because of God's grace—His undeserved kindness in choosing them*. How does this help you understand *grace*?
 - a. Link this with Ephesians 2:8 and share your thoughts.
 - b. Throughout Scripture and history God has always had a *remnant* of believers through which He works. What hope does this give you in our present day?

4. Read Romans 11:6 (NLT), *And since it is through God's kindness, then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God's grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved*. What does this convey to you concerning *God's grace*?

5. As a follower of Jesus Christ, you are part of the godly *remnant* in the world today. How are you motivated by this fact?

THIRD DAY: Read Romans 11:7–15

1. According to Romans 11:7, *what then* is the state of the following in relation to grace:
 - a. *Israel*
 - b. *The elect*
 - c. *The rest*
 - (1) Paul quoted Moses (Deuteronomy 29:4) and David (Psalm 69:22–23) to support his statement concerning unbelieving Jews. Use Romans 11:8–10 to describe and comment on their spiritual condition.
2. Based on these Scriptures, Paul asked if Israel had *stumbled* so that they would ultimately *fall* and not recover (Romans 11:11a). He strongly denied such a suggestion. Instead, what happened *through their fall*? Romans 11:11b
3. Romans 11:12 (NLT) says, *Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the people of Israel turned down God's offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when they finally accept it.* How does this speak to you concerning God's plan for:
 - a. *Gentiles*
 - b. *People of Israel*
4. Answer the following questions from Romans 11:13–15 (NLT): *I am saying all this especially for you Gentiles. God has appointed me as the apostle to the Gentiles. I stress this, for I want somehow to make the people of Israel jealous of what you Gentiles have, so I might save some of them. For since their rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, their acceptance will be even more wonderful. It will be life for those who were dead!*
 - a. What do you note concerning Paul's calling?
 - b. What was Paul's hope for the Jews?
 - c. How did Paul seek to provoke the Jews?
 - (1) Link this with Acts 13:46 and Acts 28:28. Record your findings.
 - d. What do you learn about God's plans through Israel's:
 - (1) *Rejection*
 - (2) *Acceptance*

FOURTH DAY: Read Romans 11:16-24

1. In Romans 11:16 (NLT) Paul said, *And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their descendants will also be holy – just as the entire batch of dough is holy because the portion given as an offering is holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too.* How does this explain why there is still hope for the Jews?
2. Paul used an analogy from nature to explain the salvation of Jews and Gentiles. The natural *olive tree* represents the Jews, while the *wild olive tree* represents the Gentiles. What did Paul say happened to the Jewish *branches* who did not believe? Romans 11:17a
 - a. What took place as a result for the *wild olive tree* (Gentiles)? Romans 11:17b
 - b. In light of this, what did Paul warn the Gentiles *not* to do? Romans 11:18a
 - (1) What must the Gentiles *remember*? Romans 11:18b
 - (2) Why is it important to guard against an attitude of superiority?
3. According to Romans 11:19, Gentiles can rightly claim that they were *grafted in* because the Jews were *broken off*. However, what did Paul point out about this? Romans 11:20a
 - a. Therefore, what warning did Paul give? Romans 11:20b-21
4. Use Romans 11:22 to *consider* and comment on the:
 - a. *Goodness* of God
 - b. *Severity* of God
5. What will happen *if they*, as Jews, *do not continue in unbelief*? Romans 11:23
 - a. Link this with 2 Corinthians 3:14-16. What do you see?
6. Use Romans 11:24 to explain God's ultimate plan for the Jews' salvation.
7. Why are you thankful to have been *grafted in* by faith in Christ?

FIFTH DAY: Read Romans 11:25–36

1. According to Romans 11:25a, why is it important to not *be ignorant of this mystery*?
 - a. From Romans 11:25b explain when Israel's *blindness* will end.
2. In Romans 11:26–27 Paul quoted Isaiah 59:20–21 to prove that *all Israel will be saved* nationally. Record how they *will be saved*.
 - a. Link this Zechariah 12:10. What do you see?
3. In Romans 11:28 (NLT) Paul explained, *Many of the people of Israel are now enemies of the Good News, and this benefits you Gentiles. Yet they are still the people He loves because He chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.* Link this with Romans 11:29 and comment on how this speaks to you concerning:
 - a. Israel
 - b. Yourself personally
4. Read Romans 11:30–32 (NLT), *Once, you Gentiles were rebels against God, but when the people of Israel rebelled against Him, God was merciful to you instead. Now they are the rebels, and God's mercy has come to you so that they, too, will share in God's mercy. For God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience so He could have mercy on everyone.* How does this minister to you concerning:
 - a. God's plans
 - b. God's mercy
5. As Paul considered God's plans, he broke into praise. What did he exclaim about God? Romans 11:33
6. In Romans 11:34–35 Paul used Isaiah 40:13 and Jeremiah 23:18 to affirm God's wisdom. Take a moment to write your own expression of praise concerning God's wisdom.
7. Observe Paul's conclusion concerning God's plans by filling in the blanks from Romans 11:36:
For _____ Him and _____ Him and _____ Him are _____
to whom be glory forever. Amen.
8. How has your study today magnified your appreciation of God's plans?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. From your lesson this week write a brief statement about:
 - a. Israel
 - b. Faith
 - c. God's plans
 - d. God's wisdom

*For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things,
to whom be glory forever. Amen.*
Romans 11:36