

Small Group Discussion Guide:

Romans 9:14-33

God's Electing Purpose pt 2



Know It

Read

- Romans 9:14–24
- Romans 9:25–33
- Proverbs 3:34; 1 Peter 5:5–6; James 4:10
- 2 Timothy 2:20–21

1. God's Mercy and "Fairness" (Romans 9:14–18)

- a. "What question is Paul answering in verse 14? How do people still ask that same question today?"
- b. "According to verses 15–16, what does our salvation *not* depend on? What *does* it depend on?"
- c. Humility connection:
 - i. Read Proverbs 3:34; 1 Peter 5:5–6.
 - ii. Ask: "How do these verses about humility help us respond to God's sovereign mercy without accusing Him of injustice?"

2. The Potter and the Vessels (Romans 9:19–24; 2 Timothy 2:20–21)

- a. Questions:
 - i. "What is the main point of the potter–clay image in verses 20–21? What is Paul correcting?"
 - ii. "How does 2 Timothy 2:20–21 balance this image by calling us to purify ourselves and be 'useful to the Master'?"

3. Mercy for Jews and Gentiles (Romans 9:22–33)

- a. Questions:
 - i. "In verses 22–24, what is God making known through His patience with 'objects of wrath' and His mercy toward 'objects of mercy'?"
 - ii. Read Romans 9:30–33. Ask:
 1. "How did Gentiles 'obtain righteousness' even though they weren't pursuing it?"

2. “How did Israel stumble, and what does it mean that Christ is the ‘stumbling stone’ and ‘rock of offense’?”

b. Contrast:

- i. “What is the difference between pursuing righteousness by works and receiving righteousness by faith? How might believers today still ‘pursue it by works’ in a practical sense?”



Share It

1. Personal reflection (silent for 1–2 minutes, then share as appropriate):
 - a. “Where do you see pride showing up in your life—places where you resist God’s will or try to ‘earn’ His favor?”
 - b. “Where do you sense God inviting you to be clay in His hands rather than the potter questioning Him?”
2. Group discussion:
 - a. “Scott Mitchell said, ‘Responding to God’s grace by faith is what being humble before God is about.’ How does that definition of humility challenge or correct how you usually think about humility?”
 - b. “If humility is trusting God’s mercy instead of our own works, what is one specific area this week where you need to stop striving and start trusting?”



Live It

Invite concrete, simple responses.

1. **Individual:**
 - a. “What is one way you can ‘humble yourself under the mighty hand of God’ (1 Peter 5:6; James 4:10) in the coming week—at home, at work, or in ministry?”
 - b. “What might it look like for you to live as a ‘vessel for honorable use’—set apart and useful to the Master?”
2. **Group challenge:**
 - a. Identify one person or group (perhaps someone “far off” like the Gentiles in Romans 9) and pray that your group will show them Christ’s mercy rather than judgment.