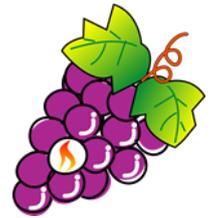




LIFE GROUP PLANNING



Aim of session:

What might God want to say to the group?
To understand something of God's sovereign mercy and how it links to our salvation

Key Scriptures

If you have access to a commentary read some background to get context.

ROMANS 9:1-18

Plus: Genesis 16:1-4, 15-16

Genesis 17: 15-22 Matthew 20:1-16

Warm Up

Have there been times in your life when you have chosen the wrong thing, made a wrong decision. Did you receive mercy or forgiveness or did you have to go with the consequences?

Was that fair? What did you deserve?

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

Israel had it all given to them by God. A special relationship, law, the temple, the prophets etc.. Yet the vast majority rejected Jesus.

1. What are Paul's feelings about Israel? What would he do if he could?
2. Has God's word and plan failed because of Israel's rejection of Jesus?
3. What distinction does Paul make between "Israel" and "Abraham's descendants"?
4. How does Paul explain why some do not believe? (see Genesis passages)

Growing in discipleship: Practical application

Mercy, by definition, is undeserved, it is not owed to anyone. If we say it is unfair to show mercy to some but not others, it suggests IS owed to us all. Then it would not be mercy it would be what we deserve and have earned. God is free to show mercy to some and not others.

5. When people challenge us about God being fair and just, how can we respond with confidence?
6. How does this story of Matthew 20:1-16 help us?
7. How does the knowledge that God is sovereign over all things help us to pray?
8. How does remembering that salvation depends on human decisions encourage us to keep praying?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.