

This guide is an invitation to follow Jesus with greater purpose and hope. It will help you to explore the scriptures and challenge you to live out your faith. Each week we'd love for you to think about how you relate: **Up** (with God), **In** (with church) and **Out** (with neighbors).



Weekly Questions:

- How is God getting my attention? For help, think about these areas:
- How are you living up with God?
- How are you living in community with other followers of Jesus?
- How are you living out on mission with your neighbors?
- What are you going to do about it?

Romans: Grace Is Greater

Romans 9

Read Romans 9. What sticks out to you? What do you learn about God? What did you like about this story? Did you find anything hard to understand or problematic?

What, So What, Now What? In Romans 9, Paul addresses how God's promises have not failed. God's choice and redemptive plan do not rely on natural descent, biological heritage, or human effort, but entirely on God's grace and mercy. God gets to decide to whom He shows mercy.

- **Unearned Grace:** Paul highlights that God's covenant promise came through Isaac and Jacob rather than human tradition, biological birthright, or human effort. How does knowing that God's call depends on God's mercy—not our performance or heritage—give you security?
- **Anguish for the Not-yets:** Paul begins Chapter 9 expressing "great sorrow and unseeing anguish" for his fellow Israelites who rejected Jesus. Who in your life or community do you feel a deep, Spirit-led longing to see experience God's love and mercy?
- **Dropping the Boundary Lines:** Why do we often try to determine who God should bless or exclude? How can our church avoid using religion or cultural boundaries as a barrier to God's mercy?
- **Patience Over Wrath:** Paul explains that God bore with "great patience the objects of his wrath" to make the riches of His glory known. How does God's great patience with rebellious people shape how you respond to people who irritate, hurt, or oppose you?
- **Stumbling Blocks:** Paul notes that Israel stumbled because they pursued righteousness by works instead of faith. Where are you tempted to rely on rules, control, or self-righteousness rather than trusting in Christ?

Weekly Practice:

Pray for Mercy: Identify a person or group you are tempted to write off, judge, or resent. Intentionally pray for God's mercy, blessing, and transformation in their life this week.

Relinquish Control: Practice letting go of self-righteous expectations and "new laws". Replace moments of criticism or judgment with an act of Spirit-led hospitality and grace toward a neighbor or church member.