

# LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

## Romans 11

### LEADER'S STUDY

#### Grafted into the Tree of Life

#### Romans 11

##### What is happening?

In Romans 9-11, Paul explains his heart for the Jews to be saved, quoting several scriptures that show that it was always God's plan that when His chosen people rejected their Messiah, He would then open the door for Gentiles to enter into His grace. Eventually, in His eternal Kingdom, believing Jews and Gentiles will worship our Savior together as one redeemed people, "the Israel of God" (Gal. 6:16).

It's important to understand in reading this chapter that Paul is not warning *individual* believers that they can be cut off from the tree and lose their salvation (vv. 17-24). It's clear from John 10:27-30, Romans 8:1, 33-39, and other scriptures that once a person is born again as God's son or daughter, that individual is His forever. What Paul's saying here is that a person dare not think he's "in" simply because he's a Jew, or because he's part of a particular church. We're saved by faith, not bloodlines or religious heritage. His warning here is similar to what we read in Revelation 2:5 about the church at Ephesus having its lampstand removed. Individual believers are forever secure in Christ, but once-effective churches that stray from the faith will be separated from the lifeblood of Christ.

##### Where is the gospel?

Exodus 19:5-6 tells us that God intended the nation of Israel to be a kingdom of priests, sharing His truth with the world and leading the other nations to worship Him. Because of their disobedience, however, and their blindness to His purposes, He has another way to bring in the rest of the world. Jesus was born a Jew, but when His own people rejected Him, He extended His invitation to the Gentiles to come to Him and be spared God's judgment. Every one of us—whatever our race, and whether male or female, PhD or middle school drop-out, etc.—is a sinner by birth, born under God's condemnation, with no hope of ever redeeming ourselves. But at the same time, every person has access to the same saving power that will lift us out of the mire of our desperation and plant us securely in God's good graces. We must only trust in the finished work of Christ and surrender to His sovereign authority. God has opened the door and calls each one of us in to sit at His table—not because we're so special, but because He's so merciful.

As you prepare for this week, ask yourself questions like these: How do I feel about the Jews? Is there any person or group that I deeply wish could be saved? What do I do about that longing? Can God be glorified even in rejection? How is God calling me to think and to live differently? How does this change my perspective today? How is God calling me to respond based on this scripture?

Spend some time reading and meditating on these truths as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word. Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

**Some helpful scriptures:** Isaiah 6:8-13; 42:18-25; 65:1-10; Matthew 13:10-17; John 9:39-41; 15:1-6; Ephesians 2:11-22. What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

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## INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Romans 11  
and meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word  
translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-  
for-thought perspective. (The New Living  
Translation is particularly helpful with this  
passage)

Try to summarize the passage in your  
own words.

**Every verse of scripture points to the  
gospel. Look for how this passage  
points to Jesus and what He has done.**

## POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your  
group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer  
all of these as a group

**What is significant, surprising or  
confusing from these verses?**

**What seems to be the main point of  
this letter?**

**How does this portion of scripture  
point to Jesus and the gospel?**

**What parts of this passage are  
challenging to your current way of  
thinking?**

**What did you discover or learn about  
God and His character from this  
passage?**

**What parts of this passage can you  
relate to?**

**Look at one or two key words and  
define them really clearly, then look at  
them in context with that definition.  
Does this change your understanding?**

**Why did God bring me to this scripture  
today?**

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**How is God calling you to obey, based  
on this passage?**

or

**What is your "I will" statement?**

(Encourage everyone to steer clear of  
"we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

**With whom are you going to share  
what you have learned?**

(This is a critical part of growth that is  
often overlooked. If we can share it with  
someone else it means we really  
understand it, it cements it in our own  
minds, it makes us accountable to the  
truth and it blesses the one who hears it.  
Rom 10:17)

**Based on this passage, what can we  
pray about and how should we pray?**