



### **Sermon Discussion Questions: Romans 11-12**

#### **Romans 11:1-10**

1. Where are you tempted to believe God's Word has failed? It could be a situation, a relationship, a lost (or prodigal) friend or family member, etc.
2. When we experience doubts and fears, it can sometimes lead to isolation and/or feeling like we're all alone. Have you ever experienced this? How might Elijah's story (and God's promises to him) be an encouragement to you? How might your community group help you if you're feeling isolated right now?
3. Today's sermon focused on 3 reasons we can have hope that God's word and purposes haven't failed. Which of these reasons is particularly important for you right now? How might you apply it to your life?
4. Spend some time in prayer for one another. Pray for your hearts in the midst of any doubts or fears and how you might apply the sermon to your life. Pray for your lost friends or family members and for boldness in how you might share your testimony with them. Pray also for our partners who are taking the gospel to the nations.

#### **Romans 11:11-24**

1. Share a story that was absolutely crazy that somehow worked out beautifully!
2. Paul says that God's plan of salvation is amazing! His plan is for the Jews' rejection of the gospel to bring about salvation to the Gentiles. Yet, God also purposes for the Gentiles' acceptance of the gospel to bring great salvation to the Jews. How might God's amazing plan & purposes bring hope to you today?
3. Paul says that the Gentiles' love of Jesus will provoke Jews to jealousy and to turn to Christ in great numbers in the future. To what extent is your love for Jesus pointing people to Jesus right now? How might you grow in this endeavor and who might you pray for to be "provoked"?
4. The people of God are often portrayed as an olive tree (see Jeremiah 11:16-19 or Hosea 14:6-7 as examples). How does Paul use this metaphor as a warning to Gentile believers? How might you apply this warning to your life?
5. Paul encourages believers to remember both the kindness and the severity of God. Why is a belief in both necessary for Christians? What happens if we forget one or the other?

### **Romans 11:25-36**

1. Share a time when your heart was hard. How did God soften it?
2. Paul says that there is a partial hardening upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in. What does this mean? In the next verse, Paul says that all Israel will be saved. What does this mean?
3. How would you explain verses 28-32 in your own words? (Note: Regarding the word “all” in verse 32, F.F. Bruce writes that this means “*not all people without exception, but all people without distinction.*”) How does this paragraph fit with your overall understanding of God’s purposes as revealed in Scripture?
4. At the end of this dense theological exposition, Paul breaks into praise. What is the connection that we can draw between theology (truth of God) and doxology (praise of God)? How might your worship of God grow as you reflect on this passage of Scripture?
5. Read verse 36 slowly and think about what each phrase means. How might this statement impact the way you live today?

### **Romans 12:1-2**

1. Share a time when you made a strong appeal. What were the circumstances? What were the results?
2. The Apostle Paul makes a strong appeal to the church at Rome. What is it?
3. Paul bases his appeal on the mercies of God. How should our knowledge of God’s mercy affect the way we live out our faith? How have you seen this in your own life?
4. In the Old Testament, believers presented sacrifices (animals, grain, etc.) as an act of worship. How might you present your own body as a living sacrifice and act of worship to God?
5. Paul calls believers to not be conformed to the world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. What is the connection between these two?
6. In what way(s) is the Lord calling you to no longer be conformed but be transformed? What is a next step you can take to obey this verse? Spend some time in prayer for one another as a group.

### **Romans 12:3-8**

1. Paul says that there are many members in His church, each called to use their gifts to serve the body of Christ. How have you seen this displayed within your community group? within Four Oaks as a whole?
2. Paul exhorts believers to think sensibly about themselves, avoiding either too high a view or too low a view of themselves or their gifts. Why is this important? Where in your life do you struggle with having either too high a view or too low a view of yourself? How might this affect your life, your relationships, or your ministry?
3. What do you think Paul means when he says we are “individually members one of another”? To what degree does your life reflect this truth? What changes might you need to make to reflect this truth in greater ways?

4. Where do spiritual gifts originate, and why is it so important for us to always remember this? (Note that Paul begins this section in verse 3 with an emphasis on humility.)
5. How does Paul tell us to use the gifts God has given? (Pay special attention to the characteristics that accompany the use of gifts.) How are you currently using your gifts? How might your group encourage you to obey this passage?

### **Romans 12:9-21**

1. The remainder of Romans 12 is a description of the Christian life (and community). Share a time when you saw one or more of these characteristics displayed.
2. Take some time to talk through the many characteristics of a Christian listed in this passage. Which one or two characteristics do you most want to grow in right now? What is a good next step you can take? How might your group pray for you and/or hold you accountable?
3. The last set of commands (or characteristics) relate to how we should treat our enemies. What does Paul say we are to do? How can knowing that God will make all things right help you when you are tempted to retaliate?
4. Paul also says that responding to your enemy with practical deeds of love deprives evil of a place to grow and eventually defeats it. How have you seen this take place in your life? In what ways can you seek to overcome evil with good right now?
5. The life Paul calls us to in this passage is also the life Jesus displayed perfectly on the earth (and continues to display right now). Which characteristic is particularly meaningful to you?