

Session 7: Mystery.

If God is sovereign, what is our role?

ROMANS 9–11

KEY VERSE:

**‘Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!’**

ROMANS 11.33 (NIV)

Key themes

- God is sovereign over the nations
- The nation of Israel rejected their Messiah
- Paul’s passion for the Jews
- Election
- The mystery of Gentile inclusion
- The obligation to share the gospel

Possible issues

THEORIES ABOUT ISRAEL

Response: Avoid being drawn into any debate. Acknowledge there are many theories but steer people back to the discussion questions.

ELECTION/PREDESTINATION

Response: Theologians have debated this for 2,000 years and we’re not going to solve this tonight!

WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD?

Response: We’re obliged to share the gospel but God also reveals himself to those who seek him.

Wrap up

- In summary: Paul speaks of his passion for the Jews, but the majority rejected Jesus as the Messiah. The Jewish people have a special role in world history, but God includes the Gentiles in his redemption plan. There is mystery here that makes us wonder and worship. Backstage, God is the Director in total control. On stage, we have our part to play as we give full allegiance to Christ and share the good news with others.
- Reminder of daily readings
- Next week: Devotion. How can we live full on for God? Our response in view of God’s mercy is to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, not conforming to the world around us. Now we are members of God’s family and are asked to even show love to our enemies.

SUGGESTED OUTLINE

- Refreshments
- Welcome and introduction including brief recap of last week’s session (4 minutes)
- Optional discussion starter questions (5 minutes):
Do you enjoy a good mystery? How do you feel when you can’t explain all you see?
- Video part 1 (15 minutes)
- Discussion time (questions in participants’ guide) (25 minutes)
- Video part 2 (10 minutes)
- Personal prayer/reflection (10 minutes)