

BLUEPRINT

Community Group Discussion Guide

May 25, 2014

Blueprint

Romans 9-11

Read Romans 9-11 before answering the following questions. (This is a longer passage of Scripture – try and give yourself 20-30 min to read through it all in one sitting.)

Introduction

God has a plan for what He's doing in history. And even though we may not always fully understand God's sovereign plan, what God is doing remains consistent with what He has revealed. In Romans 9-11 we get biblical insight into God's "blueprint" – His plan that accents His sovereignty, mercy, and glory. In this same plan, we are invited to respond with faith, gratitude, mission, and worship.

Questions for Study

1. Think about a time when you had a long-term plan for something that could've been easily questioned by others. What was your plan? What about your plan may have prompted questions or skepticism from others? Did it end up becoming reality?
2. Do you think God has a plan for what He's doing in history? If so, how would you describe that plan? Do you have any Scripture references that might support this view?
3. Are there ever circumstances that prompt you to question God's plan? Explain.
4. From what you've learned already in Romans 1-8, why might Jewish people in Paul's day be questioning whether God's plan for them had changed? (Paul seems to anticipate this sort of questioning in Romans 9:6.) In a few sentences, summarize how Paul responds to this wrong assumption in Rom. 9-11.
5. Describe your immediate reaction to the statement "God is absolutely sovereign." Why do you think you responded the way you did?
6. In your mind, does God's absolute sovereignty go hand-in-hand with our meaningful involvement, or do these things often seem opposed to each other? Explain.
7. In Romans 9-11 Paul presents the case that God is absolutely sovereign AND we are meaningfully involved in God's blueprint for history. Why is it important to acknowledge both halves of that statement, even if it transcends our finite comprehension? (Or, to think of it another way, what is at risk if we *neglect* one of the halves of that statement?)
8. Four responses to God's blueprint were suggested: Faith (in God), Gratitude (to God), Mission (for God), and Worship (of God). Choose one of these that you want to focus on. What does Romans 9-11 have to say about this response? Practically, what will you do to grow in this area?
9. What else – either from the sermon or something you read in Romans 9-11 – were you hoping to discuss? Consider especially questions you still have and/or major take-aways from these chapters of the Bible.