



Romans:  
A Life of  
Faith

**“FOR THE CITY WEEKEND”**

**SPEAKER: ALEX LESSLER**

**DATE: SEPT 25, 2022**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.*

**BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:  
ROMANS 9-11**

As Pastor Alex points out, Romans chapter eight ends with a crescendo celebrating the loving faithfulness of God. It seems like a mic-drop moment, after which no more needs to be said. However, Paul is conscious that his teaching poses a serious question. If Jesus is both Israel's Messiah and the savior of the world; if all of the world's ills and human sinfulness are addressed by Jesus (as the culmination of God's faithfulness and righteousness), then why do so many Jews reject Jesus as their Messiah?

It's a tough question, both then and now. Moreover, it orbits a larger question about God's trustworthiness. Is the rejection of Jesus by ethnic Israel evidence that God has tossed aside the Jews in spite of his promises to them? Pastor Alex addresses these questions, and Paul's passion for people to receive Jesus, during this weekend's teaching.

**LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. What is something you're particularly passionate about and why?
2. What's one thing you've had to give up in order to get something else you really wanted?
3. What's a promise you made that was hard to keep?
4. What were your highs and lows of the past week?

**LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. How does Paul describe his passion in 9:1-3? What do you think of the extremity of his statements?
2. How does Paul outline the benefits of being an Israelite? (9:4-5) Why are all of these benefits important?
3. What is the significance of Romans 9:6-7?
4. What do you think Romans 9:16 tells us about the freedom of God?
5. How do Romans 11:1-2, and 11 help us understand God's intention for Israel? What about 11:25-26?
6. Summarize Romans 11:33-36 in your own words.

**LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. What ideas, philosophies, or religions do people reject nowadays?
2. Do you think the majority of people in our culture are open-minded about God and what he does in the world? Why or why not?
3. What would most people consider trustworthy in our contemporary society? How and why does that vary from group to group?
4. Do you think most people are cynical about institutions, truth, and authorities in our world? Why or why not?
5. Where do you see passion like Paul's in our world? Where is that passion directed? Celebrity, sports, pleasure, or?

## CONTINUED:

***Look In: These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. If Paul is a “10” in terms of his passion for people far from God, what would you say you are an why?
2. Where do you draw the line in your life between what you would be willing to give up for the sake of the Gospel and what you wouldn’t? How do you feel about that and why?
3. Have you ever thought about the idea that you are an object of God’s mercy and justice — that he just decided to set his affection on you and draw you to himself? How do you feel about that?
4. We all make decisions daily, 100s really. How is your decision to follow Jesus different, assuming you have made one and believe it is different in some way? If you think it isn’t really all that different, why do you believe so?
5. How has Pastor Alex’s message this week challenged you?

***LIVE IT OUT: These action steps help apply this week’s message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. Spend some time this week examining your life and write down the ways God has been merciful to you.
2. Have a serious conversation with God and ask if there’s anything in your life which has too tight a grip on you — something you might need to be willing to let go of for Christ’s sake.
3. Give some serious thought to how you might commit your self to B4’s For the City initiative in order to expand God’s Kingdom and invite others into a relationship with God in Jesus.