SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Romans

Chapter 11

God Has Not Rejected His People

MEMORY VERSE · ROMANS 11:33

"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!"

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Romans 11

Has God given up on His people? Paul's answer in Romans 11 is "May it never be!" — and that answer reaches all the way to the man who thinks he has burned his last bridge. This week, let God humble you as a grafted-in branch, give you hope that what He gives He does not take back, and bring you to your knees in praise.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Romans study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

You Are Not the Last One

READ · ROMANS 11:1–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Elijah say to God in verse 3, and how did God answer him in verse 4? What does verse 5 call the remnant?

REFLECT

Elijah said, "I ALONE AM LEFT" (v. 3). When have you felt like the only faithful man around — at work, at home, inside a facility — and what did that feeling do to you?

REFLECT

Paul says "if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works" (v. 6). Where are you mixing a little earning into God's grace?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank God by name for three men who are standing faithfully near you, and let one of them know today that you thanked God for him.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 11:33)

DAY 2 OF 5

A Stumble Is Not a Fall

READ · ROMANS 11:11–15

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

According to verse 11, what came to the Gentiles through Israel's transgression, and why? What does verse 15 say Israel's acceptance will be?

REFLECT

Paul says Israel "did not stumble so as to fall" (v. 11). What stumble in your life have you been treating as a final fall, and what does this verse say to it?

REFLECT

Paul hoped his ministry would "move to jealousy" his own people (v. 14). What in your life would make someone want what you have in Christ?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do one thing today that shows the peace of Christ to someone watching you — patience in a line, a kind word, an offer to pray.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 11:33)

DAY 3 OF 5

The Root Supports You

READ · ROMANS 11:16–24

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

According to verse 18, who supports whom — the branches or the root? Why were the natural branches broken off, and how does the wild branch stand (v. 20)?

REFLECT

You were "a wild olive" grafted in by grace (v. 17). How does remembering where you came from change the way you look at a brother who has fallen?

REFLECT

Paul says to "continue in His kindness" (v. 22). What keeps you close to the root — the Word, prayer, your brothers — and what tends to pull you toward the edge?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray by name for one man you have quietly written off, and ask God to graft him in again — "God is able" (v. 23).

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 11:33)

DAY 4 OF 5

Until

READ · ROMANS 11:25–32

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Verse 25 says a "partial hardening" has happened to Israel. How long does it last, and what does verse 26 say will happen then?

REFLECT

Paul says "the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable" (v. 29). What would change in you if you truly believed God has not taken back His call on your life?

REFLECT

"God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all" (v. 32). How does it change the way you see your past to know that your disobedience was never bigger than His mercy?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray for the Jewish people, that the Deliverer from Zion would "REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB" (v. 26) — and then thank Jesus for taking away your sins.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 11:33)

DAY 5 OF 5

On Our Knees

READ · ROMANS 11:33–36

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does Paul praise about God in verse 33? What two questions does he ask in verses 34–35?

REFLECT

"WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN?" (v. 35). When have you caught yourself feeling that God owes you, and what does verse 36 say back to that feeling?

REFLECT

Paul ends eleven chapters of hard teaching with praise, not with every answer (vv. 33–36). What question about God's ways can you leave in His hands this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Read verses 33–36 out loud, slowly, as your own prayer, and end with "To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 11:33)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Paul's first proof that God has not rejected Israel is himself (v. 1). What would someone see in your story as proof that God does not give up on people?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

The broken branches can be grafted in again "if they do not continue in their unbelief" (v. 23). How should that hope shape the way we pray for family members who have walked away from God?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Verse 25 warns us not to be "wise in your own estimation." Where are we as a group tempted to feel spiritually above others, and how does the picture of the olive tree correct us?

MY PRAYER

Father, You grafted a wild branch like me into Your tree and You do not take back Your gifts, so today I bring You…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ROMANS 11:33

"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!"