

# 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)

## Part I: Backstage – God is Sovereign

ROMANS 9; 11

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PAUL IS PASSIONATE ABOUT HIS OWN PEOPLE, THE JEWS:

'For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people ...'

ROMANS 9.3 (NIV)

In Romans 9, Paul redefines the covenant people (Israel) according to God's purpose of election.

In Romans 11, Paul describes God's mysterious purpose to use the salvation of the Gentiles to bring many Jewish people to faith in their Messiah.

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## Discussion time

READ ROMANS 9.14–16, 19–21; 11.25–32

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1. Read Romans 9.14–16. How do you respond to the idea of God's unconditional election? Why might we find it disturbing? Why might it also be a source of comfort?
2. Read Romans 9.19–21. How do you feel about a God who acts in mysterious ways that we can't fully understand? In what areas of life do you need to trust that God is sovereign?
3. Read Romans 11.25–32. How would you summarise God's overarching purpose for Israel and the nations from Paul's teaching in these verses? How might this stir a sense of wonder and worship?

### NOTES:

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## Part II: Onstage – we are responsible

READ ROMANS 10

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### God's purpose may be mysterious but our role is clear

- Confess that Jesus is Lord

ROMANS 10.9–13

'If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.'

ROMANS 10.9 (NIV)

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### The gospel is both inclusive (everyone) and exclusive (Jesus)

- Communicate the gospel

ROMANS 10.9–13

'... how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?'

ROMANS 10.14 (NIV)

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## Part II: Reflection time

READ ROMANS 10.9–13

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In what ways can we demonstrate our allegiance to Christ today?

What might it mean for you to have 'beautiful feet'? How can we go out of our way to share God's love and truth?



### PRAYER

Pray for fresh confidence to share the gospel. Pray for open doors and hearts.

NOTES:

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### READING ROMANS:

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Before the next session, read the following passages in Romans:

- READING 1:  
**Romans 12.1–2**
- READING 2:  
**Romans 12.3–8**
- READING 3:  
**Romans 12.9–13**
- READING 4:  
**Romans 12.14–17**
- READING 5:  
**Romans 12.18–21**



### READING SUGGESTIONS:

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- Chapter 7 of  
*Romans: A Letter That Makes Sense of Life*  
by Andrew Ollerton