

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further International Bible Lessons

Romans 9:6-18

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Why might it be easier for a Christian to understand Romans 9:6-18 than a non-Christian?

A Christian knows God from the Bible and personal experience, and a Christian also has the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit when he prays for understanding. A Christian also reads the Bible with the intention of glorifying and obeying God rather than reading and trying

to find reasons not to believe in God or the Bible.

2. In Romans 9:6-18, who did Paul write were God's children?

“The children of the promise” (Romans 9:8). Jewish and Gentile Christians: “After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!” (Romans 11:24). Also see Romans 8:15 — “The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’”

3. What does Paul refer his readers to in order to help them better understand God's ways? Why might Paul have done this?

The Bible, specifically the Old Testament. The Bible was the accepted authority for his readers, both Jews and Gentile Christians. See also 2 Timothy 3:16-17 — “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

4. In Romans 9:6-18, what attributes, powers, qualities, and truths about God did Paul reveal or tell his readers to consider?

Consider some of these, there are probably many more truths students will name.

God can work miracles. God has children. God has purposes or reasons for what He does. God chooses people to achieve His purposes. God can use both “good and bad” people to achieve His purposes and demonstrate truths about Himself. God chooses to use some people before they are born and have done anything good or bad. God has emotions, the full range of emotions from love to hate that He controls and always uses for good and loving reasons. God calls people to serve Him without regard to their birth order, human potential, or works. God is not unjust. God has mercy and compassion that He displays for reasons that are sometimes only known to Himself. God can harden someone’s heart and strengthen their will to keep opposing Him for good reasons. God displays His power to proclaim His name to all the earth.

5. What do you conclude when you read Bible verses or teachings in the Bible that appear to be contradictory?

That I lack understanding and need to keep praying and studying the Bible and researching and thinking, because I know from the character of God and past experience in similar situations that God will not contradict Himself and neither does the Bible, God’s word written.