

**Facilitator:**

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Try to keep your discussion to an hour at the most.
4. Refer to the Romans 9 “one sheet” if you have further questions.

**Facilitator:** Encourage your members to **BRING THEIR BIBLES** and use them during Connect Group.

**CONNECT Group study questions for June 3, 2018**

**Title: Understanding**—Romans 9:1-5

**Read Romans 9:1-3.**

**Question:** What is Paul’s reaction to thinking about the fate of lost Jews all over the world? What does Paul mean when he says, "I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh"? Are there any lost people that you love so much that you would say this about them? Why or why not?

**Question:** How do Romans 1-8 help explain Paul’s reaction to thinking about Israel? What must Paul believe about God that would lead him to grieve over the fate of a people who had rejected him, persecuted him, and tried to murder him?

*Facilitator: Help your group keep in mind that Paul felt this way about the gentiles who tried to kill him as well. Paul got a glimpse of how much God loves the whole world, Jews and Gentiles, and it transformed his heart into loving those who had made themselves his enemies. How did God feel about us when we humans rejected Jesus, persecuted him, and murdered him just as the unbelieving Jews had done to Paul?*

**Read Romans 9:4-5.**

**Question:** Everything Paul says about ancient Jews in vs. 4-5, the New Testament says about us, the Church.

How is the Church . . .

- A. the Israel of God, the offspring of Abraham? (Gal 3:7-9; 6:16)
- B. adopted? (Rom 8:15, Eph 1:5)
- C. the glory of God? (2 Cor 3:18; Eph 1:12, 3:21; 1 Peter 4:14)
  - D. the recipient of the greatest covenant? (Lk 22:19-21, Heb 8:6-7)
  - E. the recipients of a better law? (Gal 6:2, 1 Cor 9:21)
  - F. created for the worship of God? (Heb 12:28-29, Rom 12:1)
  - G. the recipient of God’s promises? (2 Cor 1:20-22, Acts 1:4-5, 2 Peter 1:3-4)

*Facilitator: The verses listed above are just examples. You could find many other verses to illustrate Paul’s rhetorical strategy here. Try to survey as many of these as you can, and don’t let your group get bogged down in debating one particular reference.*