

QUESTIONING GOD

Concerning the Gentiles, God says in the prophecy of Hosea, “Those who were not my people, I will now call my people. And I will love those whom I did not love before.” And “Then, at the place where they were told, ‘You are not my people,’ there they will be called ‘children of the living God.’”

Romans 9:25-26



What is the most ridiculous thing you believed was unfair when you were a child? (*your sibling getting a bigger slice of cake, parent enforced bedtime, having to study...*)

Read Romans 9:1-5

1. Paul begins this chapter expressing deep grief and heartbreak for those far from Christ, what does this teach us about how we should ‘feel’ or ‘react’ to our loved ones who are yet to know Jesus?
 - When have you experienced disappointment, confusion or unanswered prayer that caused you to question what God was doing?
 - Why do difficult times or circumstances often cause us to doubt God?
 - Read Psalm 13:1-6 and Habakkuk 1:2-4, how do these passages support the idea that questioning God is part of our faith?
2. Paul asks in Romans 9:6 if God’s promises have failed and answers “no”, what are some situations you know of, or where you felt God had failed?
 - Our text clearly shows that our circumstances do not define God’s faithfulness – what biblical truths will help you trust Him when outcomes may be disappointing?

3. In Romans 9:10-18 Paul uses many OT examples to show God's mercy and sovereign purposes are bigger than human expectations, what other examples from Scripture or in your own life, have you seen God work in unexpected ways?
 - Throughout Scripture, God often uses unexpected people, (Moses, David, Rahab, Ruth...) what does this reveal about God's choices and character?
 - How is God's way of choosing people different from the way our culture values success, ability, and achievement?
 - In what ways do you still find yourself trying to earn God's approval instead of receiving His grace?
 - How does Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:5 speak into this subject?

4. Paul reminds us in Romans 9:19-21 that there are aspects of God's purposes that remain beyond our understanding, why do we often need explanations before we can trust?
 - Why is humility important when dealing with questions about God and His purposes?
 - What is the difference between seeking understanding and demanding explanations from God?
 - What does the potter and clay images teach us about our relationship with God?

5. In Romans 9:24-29 Paul uses Hosea to show that those who were once far from God are now called His people – How has this mercy of God welcomed you?
 - Who would be considered 'outsiders' today?
 - How does Ephesians 2:12-13, and Luke 5:31-32 speak of these outsiders?
 - How are people today around Christianity, but not truly trusting God?
 - How can we as part of Catalyst, better reflect God's welcoming heart, without compromising the truth of Jesus being the only way to true faith? What practical steps can you commit to as a group?