

Activity #3: Print this out for the older student group leaders.

Group Discussion for 9:14-33

6th-10th Grade: "Real-Life Decision Breakdown"

Purpose:

Introduces deeper theological concepts in an approachable way & helps students understand God's sovereignty without fear

What You Need:

- Whiteboard or paper
- Markers
- Scenario sheet (or read aloud)

Activity Steps:

1. Break into small groups (3-4 students)

Each group answers:

Part A – Is God Fair?

Discuss:

- Have you ever thought something was unfair because someone received a gift they didn't earn?
- If salvation is a gift, does God owe it to anyone?
- Why does Paul ask if there is injustice with God?

Romans 9:14-16

Have students discuss:

- Mercy
- Grace
- Fairness
- God's sovereignty

Part B – God's Mercy, God's Justice, God's Glory

Have them discuss justice vs mercy:

Romans 9:15-16

Discuss:

- Why nobody deserves salvation
- Why mercy is such an incredible gift
- How grace and mercy display God's character

Justice	Mercy
Receiving what we deserve	Not receiving what we deserve
Punishment for sin	Forgiveness through Christ
God remains holy	God shows compassion
Earned by our actions	Given by God's grace

Part C – Pharaoh and God's Plan

Ask: "Why did God allow Pharaoh to resist Him?"

Have students look up tie-in scriptures and connect:

- Exodus 9:16 "For this very purpose I raised you up..."
- Proverbs 21:1 "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord."
- Isaiah 55:8-9 "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways."

Discuss:

- Pharaoh already rejected God
- God used Pharaoh's rebellion to display His power
- God can use even sinful choices to accomplish His purposes
- God's plans cannot be stopped

Group Discussion Questions:

- Why do people sometimes struggle with God's sovereignty?
- What is the difference between justice and mercy?
- Why should mercy make us grateful instead of prideful?
- How does knowing God is in control help during uncertain times?

2. Personal or Out loud Reflection (Silent – 5 minutes)

Ask students to write or answer out loud: "How has God shown mercy in my life?"

OR

Do I deserve God's favor all on my own? What does this make you realize?

Prayer & Reflection: Ask God to help you understand the beauty and perfection of His plan of salvation. Thank Him for sending Jesus and for the suffering He willingly endured so that we could have eternal life. If there is anything about God's plan that you struggle to understand, ask Him to reveal His heart and deepen your trust in His love and wisdom.

(No sharing required if done silently- keep it personal)

Key for Lesson: God is perfectly just and amazingly merciful. He owes salvation to no one, yet He freely offers mercy & forgiveness through Jesus Christ according to His perfect plan.