

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

Group Discussion for Romans 9:1-13

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

Purpose:

Introduces deeper thinking about God's sovereignty and faithfulness & helps students understand the difference between privilege and saving faith

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 – Paul's Heart for Others

Discuss:

- Have you ever cared so much about someone that you were deeply saddened by their choices?
- Why was Paul so heartbroken over Israel?
- What does Paul's grief teach us about loving others?

Romans 9:1-3

Have students discuss:

- Compassion
- Evangelism- sharing Jesus with others
- Love for others
- Concern for people's salvation

Part B – God Keeps His Promises - Israel

Have them discuss privileges vs faith:

Romans 9:4-5

Discuss:

- Why privileges do not save people
- Why knowing about God is different from trusting Him
- How blessings should point us toward faith

Israel Received	What Was Still Needed
God's covenants	Faith in God's promises
God's Law	Faith in the Messiah
God's promises	Trust in Christ
God's blessings	Personal belief

Part C – Does God Keep His Promises?

Ask: "If many Israelites rejected Jesus, did God's promises fail?"

Have students look up tie-in scriptures and connect:

- Genesis 21:12 "Through Isaac your descendants shall be named."
- Malachi 1:2-3 "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the Lord. "Yet I have loved Jacob; 3 but I have hated Esau,"
- Psalm 44:9-26
- Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie..."

Discuss:

- God's promises never fail
- God always keeps His Word
- God chose Isaac instead of Ishmael
- God chose Jacob instead of Esau

Group Discussion Questions:

- Why do people sometimes doubt God's promises?
- What is the difference between knowing about God and trusting God?
- How does Paul's love for Israel challenge us to care about others?
- Why is it comforting to know God's plans cannot fail?

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

Ask students to write or answer out loud: "Who is someone I can pray for that does not know Jesus?"

OR

Is it hard to understand that God would choose some to know Him and not others?

Prayer & Reflection: Ask God to help you trust Him and His plans, even when you cannot see the whole picture. Remember that God is sovereign—He is in control of all things and is working His perfect plan to bring His people to restoration in Him. Instead of focusing on what you do not understand, ask God to help you faithfully share His truth with others. Pray daily that He would strengthen your faith, remove your doubts, and help you trust His Word more fully.

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

Key for Lesson: God always keeps His promises. Even when circumstances seem confusing, His plans never fail, and His purposes will always be accomplished.