

Going Deeper

In Acts Paul's ministry follows a common pattern. He would move to a new town, preach first in the Synagogue and when the main body of Jews rejected his message, he would turn to preach to the Gentiles (non-Jews). At the end of Acts, Paul arrives in Rome, a prisoner accused by the Jews in Jerusalem of causing a disturbance.

Read Acts 28:16-31

5. How do the events of this passage reflect the pattern in Acts described above? (Cf. Acts 13:44-48)

6. How does Paul show that he is still committed to his Jewish heritage and the Jewish people by what he does and says?

7. What have the Jews that Paul addresses heard about Christianity before this?

8. What is Paul's approach in preaching the good news about Jesus to the Jews?

9. How might the quote from Isaiah that Paul uses have made you feel if you were a Jew who had just rejected Paul's message?

10. Why does the Jewish rejection of the Gospel now allow Paul to preach the message to the Gentiles? (cf. Rom. 1:16)

Now do the applying it to our lives questions...



**Week Beginning
Sunday 19th May 2019**

Growth Team News

This week we continue in Romans. In chapter 11, Paul continues to consider the implications of the fact that so many Jews had failed to believe the good news of Jesus.

This week is the last Growth Team before the half-term break. Growth Teams will be back the week beginning 9th June and will be doing a course called: 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline'.

**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever**



Rejection and Reconciliation

Romans 11:1-24 (page 1137-8)

Space to take notes on the talk

The Olive Tree:

- ❖ The Root: _____

- ❖ The Remaining Branches: _____

- ❖ The Broken-off Branches: _____

- ❖ The Grafted-in Branches: _____

Getting to know each other:

- ❖ Other than church, which group of people do you most value being a part of?

Responding to the talk

1. What was the key point that you learnt from this week's talk?
2. Read 11:1-10
 - a. How does Paul show us that God has not rejected Israel?
 - b. Who are the 'remnant'? How are they chosen?
 - c. How did God 'harden' those who have not believed?
3. Read 11:11-15
 - a. What is Paul's hope for those Jews who have not believed the gospel?
 - b. What positive thing has come out of the Jewish rejection of the gospel? (cf. Acts 13:44-48)
 - c. How does Paul see his mission as being ultimately for the benefit of the Jews?
4. Read 11:16-24
 - a. What does Paul say about 'the root' of the Olive Tree? What do you think the root refers to? (cf. 9:3-8; 11:28)
 - b. What two characteristics of God does Paul emphasise? Why does he focus on these?
 - c. Why should Gentile Christians not be arrogant towards the Jews?
 - d. What are we to be afraid of as Christians? How does this affect our assurance of salvation? (cf. 8:30)

You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.

Applying it to our lives

10. How might Paul's plan (to make his fellow unbelieving Jews jealous by helping Gentiles come to faith) be imitated by us as we think about friends and family who have fallen away from faith?

11. What difference should being afraid of losing our place as part of God's people make to our attitudes in life?