

Believe

Session 8 • Romans 9:30–10:3, 9–17



ENGAGE

PREPARE: Display **Pack Item 2** (*Poster: Outline of Romans*) and **Pack Item 3** (*Poster: The Doctrine of Man*). Make copies of **Pack Item 10** (*Handout: Justification by Faith*).

READ: Direct the group to read the opening paragraph on page 69. Encourage volunteers to share stories of when they did something wrong and resisted confessing.

ASK: What's the connection between confessing to a crime and believing that you broke the law? (p. 69)

SHARE: Write *Confessing Christ* on the board. Point out that this is a different kind of confession, but it still involves telling the truth. Explain that rather than admitting a mistake, we are affirming Jesus as the one true hope for all that we have done wrong.

ASK: From what you've learned from Romans, how did many Jews feel about accepting Jesus as the Messiah? Why?

CONTEXT: Share that today's session focuses on Romans 9–10, where Paul turned his attention to the nation of Israel. He expressed a longing for his fellow Jews to accept Jesus.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

PREPARE: On a whiteboard draw a two-column chart with one side labeled *Jews* and the other *Gentiles*.

READ: Invite a volunteer to read Romans 9:30–33 and encourage the group to listen for the different paths the two groups followed. Allow the group to share the distinctives between Jews and Gentiles based on these verses. Record their responses under the appropriate column on the board.

SUMMARIZE: The Gentiles were not seeking righteousness and lived in spiritual darkness, yet many believed when they heard the gospel. Israel, by contrast, pursued righteousness through works, devoting themselves to the law rather than trusting in Christ—a path that kept them from being right with God.

ASK: Why might people stumble over the message of the gospel? (p. 71)

TRANSITION: *Paul recognized many Jews rejected Jesus with a misguided zeal for the law, while Gentiles with no background in the law more easily embraced faith in Christ. He longed for them to redirect their zeal and accept what Jesus had done for them.*

READ: Invite a volunteer to read Romans 10:1-3 while the group identifies Paul's desire for the Jewish nation.

SHARE: In the *Jews* column on the board, write *Misguided Zeal*. Note that while the Jews had a passion for God and His law, their zeal moved them in the wrong direction. Point out that trusting in their own efforts pushed them farther from God instead of closer to Him.

ASK: How did Paul's love for the Jews lead him to respond to their needs? (p. 71)

SUMMARIZE: Discuss responses. Highlight Paul's desire to pray for the salvation of His fellow Jews.

EXAMINE: Note that Paul was no stranger to a misguided zeal related to the Mosaic law. He carried a deep burden for the Jews because he once shared their mindset. He had taken pride in his Jewish credentials. Encourage adults to read Philippians 3:3-11 silently. When they are done, lead a discussion of those verses focused on these two questions:

- **Why did Paul understand the zeal the Jews had regarding law?**
- **What did he learn about righteousness from the law after He came to Christ?**

SAY: *Paul had checked all the boxes for being an upstanding Jew. If anyone could claim a right relationship with God through the law, it was him. But once he met Christ, Paul knew that the law would never be enough. Now he wanted other Jews to see and understand that as well. That's what drove him to pray for them.*

ASK: Whose salvation are you continually praying for? (p. 71)

READ: Read aloud Romans 10:9-13, encouraging the group to listen for key words in Paul's message. Highlight the words *confess* and *believe*.

ASK: What does it mean to confess Jesus as Lord? (p. 71)

SUMMARIZE: Discuss responses. Summarize this content to provide more insights:

- **(10:9)** Confessing Jesus as Lord is to acknowledge Him as God—something many Jews found difficult and a key reason they rejected Him. This confession is the outward expression of genuine faith, which goes beyond mere words to a heartfelt belief that God raised Jesus from the dead. Belief and confession together form the essence of saving faith, they are two sides of the same coin.

READ: Invite a volunteer to read Romans 10:14-17 as the group listens for four questions posed by Paul. Lead the group to name the four questions and discuss how they describe the process of coming to a saving relationship with Jesus.

ASK: What hinders people from calling on Jesus for salvation? What role do believers play in removing these hindrances? (p. 71)

REVIEW: Draw attention to **Pack Item 3** (*Poster: The Doctrine of Man*). Read the text on the poster aloud as a group. Talk about how this doctrine aligns with the needs Paul described in Romans 10:14-17.

FOCUS: Highlight the fourth question in the list. Note that while the others are related to the person receiving the message, the fourth emphasizes the need for believers to share the message.

- **(10:15)** This fourth question echoes the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20), challenging us to support missionaries and other vocational ministers called to proclaim the gospel worldwide. At the same time, it reminds every believer that we are sent to share the gospel where we live. Paul's reference to Isaiah 52:7 encourages us to embrace our responsibility to ensure others hear the good news.

COMPARE: Divide the group into teams of two to four people to complete the **Bible Skill** activity on page 71. After a few minutes, allow time for each team to recap their discussion. Highlight the truth that those who have heard and accepted the gospel have a responsibility before God to share that message with those who still need to hear. Lead a brief discussion on practical ways believers can prepare to share the gospel and to be alert for opportunities God provides to be "sent."

CHALLENGE

HIGHLIGHT: Review these bullet points from this week's Bible study passage:

- All people need to understand that true righteousness comes through faith not by works.

- Believers can follow Paul's example by praying for the salvation of lost people.
- Any person who has not yet believed and confessed Jesus can do so and be saved.
- Believers must tell others the gospel message and send missionaries throughout the entire world.

REVIEW: Distribute copies of **Pack Item 10** (*Handout: Justification by Faith*). Encourage adults to scan the article and suggest points that affirm this session's key passages.

REFLECT: Direct adults to the **Apply the Text** activity on page 71. Give them a few minutes to think about when they accepted Christ as Savior. Then, allow a few volunteers to share their stories. Discuss how their testimonies can help them become more effective in sharing the gospel with others.

PRAY: Lead adults in a time of silent prayer, asking God to empower each person to look for opportunities to share the gospel with someone who needs to hear about Jesus this week. Thank God for our salvation and the privilege of sharing with others.

AFTER THE SESSION

Send the group a text or an email challenging them to spend time this week reflecting on the difference Jesus has made in their lives, and to let that truth motivate them to look for opportunities to share the gospel this week.