

# Winter Small Groups

**Coldwater Group**

Mondays 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Scott Carpenter  
517.617.5438

**East Gilead Group**

Thursdays 6:30 p.m.

Contact: Greg Maertín  
419.345.4022

**Tijuana Fellowship Group**

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Paul Alger  
517.677.0444

**Bronson Group**

Thursdays 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Jim Wickey  
517.369.6229

**Effective Parenting Group**

Sundays 6:30 p.m. (at the church)

Contact: Brandon Carpenter  
989-277-5988

**Bethel Group**

Time and location TBA

Contact: David Minard  
517.756.8000

**Bronson Hispanic Group**

Time and location TBA

Contact: Frank Cabrera  
517.215.5697

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## Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of February 10, 2019

*Open your group with a time of sharing and prayer. Ask God to sharpen your faith through your small group.*

- I. After taking a leave from the book of Romans, we will now pick up with the second half of the book. Before we do, conduct a quick sweep of the first eight chapters of Romans. [Chapters 1-4](#) deal primarily with salvation. [Chapters 5-8](#) deal primarily with sanctification. What stands out to you in these two sections of Romans?
- II. Now pick up in Romans 9. Chapters 9-11 represent a pause in the Apostle Paul's letter to the church at Rome. Here he keys in on a likely question in his day, "What about the nation of Israel?" Let's look at his answer. Read [Romans 9:1-5](#). Paul is quite upset over Israel's rejection of Jesus. List the advantages they possess as Jews. How does he portray Jesus in verse 5? Now read [Romans 9:6-13](#). Has God's word failed? Does it fail for us at times? How does he differentiate between natural heritage and supernatural (children of the promise) using Ishmael and Isaac and Esau and Jacob as examples? Which represent the Jewish nation and which believing Gentiles?
- III. Now read [Romans 9:14-24](#). This section deals with a difficult doctrine called "election". Does God choose people to carry out his purposes? Does he choose not to use certain people? How might this doctrine relate to predestination? Note [Ephesians 1:4-5, 11-12](#). If we believe that God is sovereign, how does this come to play in the area of salvation and personal choice? Do we choose God or does he choose us? Could it be both?
- IV. Finish chapter 9 by reading [verses 25-33](#). The Apostle Paul draws from the Old Testament scriptures to point to the hardening of Israel and the uprising of the Gentile believers (the church). Who is the remnant from verse 27? (Note [1Kings 19:18, Isaiah 10:22-23, Romans 11:4-6](#)). What was the "stumbling stone" for the nation of Israel back then? Is Jesus a stumbling stone for people today? Explain your answer.

*Finish your group by reading [Romans 11:33-36](#). Verbally acknowledge that God knows best and that his ways are higher (purer, better) than ours. Entrust your lives to his mercy, grace and wisdom.*

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