

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

God's Strategy in Human History

Week 1: God's Strategy Regarding Heritage

Acts 16:35-40

Week of August 1, 2020

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Romans 9 is a unique and precious chapter. In it, God reveals His strategy behind some of His most confusing moves in human history. In this first week of the series, we took a look at why God choose to make Israel His chosen nation. Our study revealed the strategic importance of using the power of social influence toward spiritual growth.

Kicking it off: Jeff compared God's strategic work in human history to the classic game of chess. What is one of your favorite board games? Why do you like it?

Discussion:

1. Reread *Romans 9:2-4* I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel.

Paul is really broken up about the lost condition of most Jews. Do you have any sadness of heart due to someone who is far from God? If so, tell the group.

2. Read *Genesis 15:6* Abraham believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith.

God chose Abraham to be His man because of "faith." Why does God place such high value on faith?

3. Reread *Romans 9:6-7* Not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children.

The Jews thought that all Jews were automatically right with God. How do these verses complicate the matter?

4. Jeff made the case that in God's choosing of Abraham and Israel, God was strategically using a "means to an end." In what way are Abraham and Israel means to a bigger end?

5. God strategically used family and country to advance his cause. This reveals that faith flourishes best in community. Can you recall a time that you grew spiritually because of the people in your life? If so, share about it.

6. What steps have you taken to surround yourself with people who inspire you to grow spiritually?

7. What steps could you take to "keep good company?"

Wrapping It Up: There are many young Christians in The Compass Church still isolated from Christian community. They are spiritually vulnerable. Pray for them.