As in the Days of Noah

(*Living Faithfully While Awaiting the King's Return*)
"Israel and the Faithfulness of God"
November 1, 2026
Pastor David Bardowell

Big Idea:
God's ongoing plan for Israel demonstrates that He always keeps His promises.

Kingdom Response:
Trust God's covenant faithfulness and help others discover the God who keeps His promises.

Series Heartbeat:
The return of Christ is not an escape from the mission—it is the motivation for the mission.

I. Faithful Disciple-Makers _____

_____ (Romans 11:1–6, 25–29)

"I ask, then, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not!" (Romans 11:1, CSB)

"In the same way, then, there is also at the present time a remnant chosen by grace." (Romans 11:5, CSB)

"It is not for your sake that I will act, house of Israel, but for my holy name." (Ezekiel 36:22, CSB)

"Since God's gracious gifts and calling are irrevocable." (Romans 11:29, CSB)

Key Truth:
God's faithfulness is not determined by our faithfulness—it is grounded in His unchanging character.

II. Faithful Disciple-Makers _____

_____ (Romans 11:11–24)

"By their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel jealous." (Romans 11:11, CSB)

"Now if their transgression brings riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fullness bring!" (Romans 11:12, CSB)

"Do not boast that you are better than those branches." (Romans 11:18, CSB)

"For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either." (Romans 11:21, CSB)

Key Truth:
Grace should never produce spiritual superiority. It should produce humility and gratitude.

III. Faithful Disciple-Makers _____

_____ (Romans 11:25–36)

"I don't want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you will not be conceited: A partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in." (Romans 11:25, CSB)

"And in this way all Israel will be saved." (Romans 11:26, CSB)

"Then they will look at me whom they pierced." (Zechariah 12:10, CSB)

"For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen." (Romans 11:36, CSB)

Key Truth:
God's prophetic plan is not merely something for us to understand—it is something that should move us to worship and faithful obedience.

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Small Group Questions — Week 8

Israel and the Faithfulness of God

Text: Romans 11

Start Here — Reflective Question

Think of a time when someone kept an important promise to you—or failed to keep one. How did that experience affect your ability to trust them?

Discussion Questions

1. RECOGNIZE THAT GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES — Romans 11:1–6, 25–29

Paul makes it clear that God has not rejected Israel. Despite Israel's repeated unfaithfulness, God remains committed to His covenant promises because His faithfulness is rooted in His own character.

- Why is Paul's declaration that God has not rejected Israel so significant?
- What does Romans 11:29 teach us about God's character?
- How does God's faithfulness to Israel strengthen our confidence in His promises to us?
- What promises of God are especially meaningful to you during this season of your life?

2. REMAIN HUMBLE BECAUSE SALVATION IS BY GRACE — Romans 11:11–24

Paul uses the illustration of an olive tree to explain how Gentile believers have been graciously brought into God's covenant blessings. He warns against arrogance and reminds believers that salvation comes through faith, not heritage or personal merit.

- What does the illustration of the olive tree teach us about our relationship to Israel?
- Why does Paul warn Gentile believers against arrogance?
- How should understanding that salvation is entirely by grace affect the way we view people who do not yet know Jesus?
- What are some subtle ways spiritual pride can interfere with disciple-making?

3. TRUST GOD'S PLAN AND PARTICIPATE IN HIS MISSION — Romans 11:25–36

Paul reveals that Israel's present hardening is partial and that God still has a future purpose for the Jewish people. He concludes by worshiping God for His wisdom and sovereign plan.

- What does Romans 11:25–26 reveal about God's continuing purposes for Israel?
- Why do you think Paul concludes his discussion of Israel with worship rather than further explanation?
- How can we remain confident in God's plan even when we do not understand everything He is doing?
- How should knowing that God is still working among all nations motivate us to participate in His mission?

Disciple-Making Connection

The Kingdom Response this week is:

Trust God's covenant faithfulness and help others discover the God who keeps His promises.

We've been learning to use **LAF — Listen, Ask, Follow** as a simple approach to Spirit-led disciple-making.

- **LISTEN:** Who in your life might be struggling to trust God because of disappointment, uncertainty, or broken promises?
- **ASK:** What question could you ask to begin a spiritual conversation about trust, hope, or God's faithfulness?
- **FOLLOW:** How could you help someone take a next step toward discovering the faithfulness of God through Jesus?

Closing Challenge: Ask the Holy Spirit to bring someone to mind who needs encouragement or hope. Look for an opportunity this week to share how God's faithfulness has made a difference in your life. Remember, our job is not to convert. Our job is to converse—and trust the Holy Spirit with the results.