

## Week 5: God's Sovereign Mercy (Romans 9)

**Essential Question:** How do we trust God's justice when His choices and sovereignty don't match our human expectations?

- **Follow-up Questions:**

1. Why is Paul so deeply grieved at the beginning of this chapter?
2. How does Paul distinguish between physical descendants of Abraham and "children of the promise"?
3. How do you react to the idea of God as a "potter" and us as the "clay"?
4. Does God's sovereignty in election remove our responsibility to believe? Why or why not?
5. What does it mean that God has "mercy on whom he wants to have mercy"?
6. Why did Israel "stumble" over the "stumbling stone"?
7. How does this chapter emphasize that salvation is 100% based on God's initiative?