

1. How many does God want to be saved?

- a) John 3:16
- b) 2 Peter 3:9
- c) 1 Timothy 2:3–4
- d) What then does the LORD mean when He says, “I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion”? Exodus 33:19, quoted by Paul in Romans 9:15
- e) How did the LORD harden Pharaoh’s heart? Romans 9:17–18
- f) Are some predestined to be saved and others predestined to be lost?
- g) What passages of Scripture remind us of our free choice either to accept or reject God’s offer of grace, forgiveness, and salvation?
 - i) Romans 10:13
 - ii) 1 John 1:9
 - iii) Psalm 95:6–8
 - iv) Joshua 24:14–15
 - v) Other passages?

2. Paul’s sorrow over his fellow Israelites

- a) Romans 10:1, what is Paul’s desire for his fellow Israelites?
- b) Why is he filled with sorrow when he thinks about his own people? Romans 9:1–5

- c) What encouragement can we find from the prophecy of Isaiah quoted by Paul in Romans 9:27–28?
- d) Some of us experience sadness when we think of some of our loved ones who have not accepted Jesus as Messiah. What can we do to reach out to them and share with them the truth about Jesus?

3. The stumbling stone

- a) Romans 9:30–33
- b) Why was Jesus a stumbling block to many of Paul’s countrymen?
- c) What kind of Messiah were they expecting?
- d) What prophecies of the Hebrew Scriptures point to Jesus of Nazareth as the true Messiah?
 - i) Micah 5:2
 - ii) Isaiah 9:1–2, 6–7
 - iii) Zechariah 9:9
 - iv) Malachi 3:1–3
 - v) Isaiah 53:1–6, 7–12
- e) How did Paul respond to the realization that the truth about Jesus as Messiah would be a stumbling block to many? 1 Corinthians 1:18–25
- f) Share your journey discovering the truth about Jesus as Messiah. How did Jesus reveal Himself to you?

