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- 1. Do you remember choosing sides? Two team captains choosing teams as you waited to be chosen? When were you usually chosen? First? Last? Someplace in the middle? Why was it such a big issue to be chosen last (or close to last)?
- 2. If there was only one team and the consequence of not being chosen was spending eternity in Hell what would matter more: When you were chosen or that you were chosen at all?
- 3. How important is it that we are chosen by God to be recipients of His love, grace, and mercy? Consider the consequences of not being chosen.

The Mystery (11:25-32)

- 1. In verse 25, what is the "mystery" that Paul wants his brothers to understand?
- 2. How does Paul's explanation of the "partial hardening" of Israel, Gentiles coming to faith, and Israel's "jealousy" (verse 11) describe how God is working to bring both Jews and Gentiles to saving faith in what God has done through Jesus' work on the cross?
- 3. Ultimately, the order and process of how God chooses to save us is not as crucial as the fact that He does. Agree or disagree?
- 4. In verse 29, what are the gifts and calling of God? What does Paul say about these?
- 5. Thinking about what Paul means by "irrevocable": Have you ever given a gift or made a promise to someone and then later regretted it? Share?
- 6. "Irrevocable" means that God never chooses to make a promise that He will later regret and think to revoke. How can this be a reassurance to the Jews? To the Gentiles? To you?
- 7. Paul writes, "Lest you be wise in your own sight..." (verse 25) as the reason for explaining the mystery of how God is at work bringing salvation to both Jews and Gentiles. How might what Paul writes in verses 25 to 32 help you to avoid being wise in your own sight? How might being "wise in your own sight" be a problem in your relationship with God? Others?

The Glory (11:33-36)

- 1. How does Paul describe God? How does Paul describe us in comparison to God?
- 2. "To Him be glory forever" means that forever all of God's creation (which includes us) is to testify with all that we are of all of Who He is. He alone is worthy of this. How can we live this way today?
- 3. God, who is beyond comprehension, chooses you to irrevocably call to salvation and the promise of life with Him now and forever. These days, how does knowing that truth effect the way you are living your life?

TAKE HOME QUESTIONS:

- 1. If you had to pick just one insight from this study that speaks specifically to you, what would it be? Why?
- 2. How do you plan to respond to it this week?
- 3. Who do you know who needs to hear what was helpful for you in this study? When will you share this encouragement with them?