

Romans Lesson 8

Reading: Romans 9-11

Memory Verse: Romans 10:12

Definitions:

Grafted – to place into

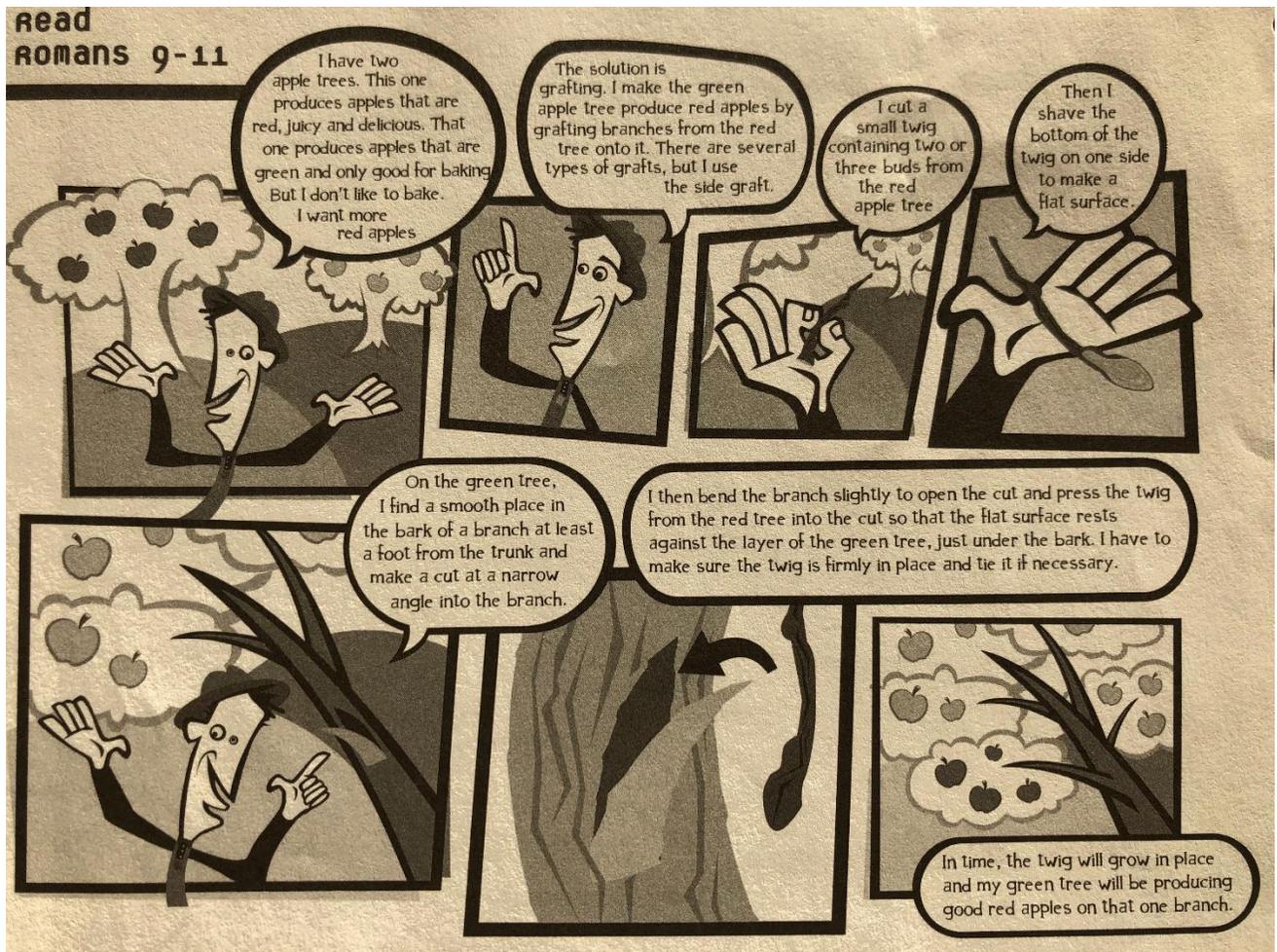
Remnant – that which is left, remainder

Sovereignty – supreme authority

After reading the lesson, answer the questions using the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfA->

[ov7CTJapdZNScs50OKYNV4AXj3otl5ISQDYfClwCciHjw/viewform?usp=sf link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfA-ov7CTJapdZNScs50OKYNV4AXj3otl5ISQDYfClwCciHjw/viewform?usp=sf_link)



Romans Lesson 8

You might be wondering what tree grafting has to do with a series on Romans. You will discover that Paul used the picture of grafting to illustrate a point he wanted to get across to the people in the church at Rome.

But let's start at the beginning.

In the first eight chapters of Romans, Paul centers his discussion around the topic of faith. But remember, he was a *Hebrew of Hebrews*. All along we have seen that he remained aware of the Jewish background of many of the Romans. He remembered his own background too and the struggle he faced trying to live up to the Mosaic law.

The Jews could not obtain salvation by keeping the Old Testament Mosaic law. The law did not save people; its purpose was to define sin (7:7). In the Old Testament, faith was demonstrated through obedience to the requirements of the law (Deuteronomy 28). The people could not meet the demands of the law. Because they could not live up to the requirements of the law, there needed to be a system of sacrifice to atone (cover) their sins until the death of Christ. Leviticus, particularly chapters 4 and 16, explains the sin offering. The Old Testament sacrifices, however, were not adequate (Hebrews 10:1-4). The priest had to come again and again with an offering (Hebrews 9:25-26). An all-sufficient sacrifice is found only in the Lord Jesus Christ, the son of God (Hebrews 9:28).

Romans Lesson 8

Paul's Heritage

Now in chapters 9-11, Paul directly addressed the Jewish race. The Jewish race has existed since Abraham, though many have tried to wipe it out. In the Old Testament, the Jews were God's chosen people, but not all Jewish people chose to believe in God. Many times, the Jewish people turned away from God. Though the nation as a whole rejected him, there have always been Jews (called the remnant) who remain faithful to God.

Paul writes that a difference exists between the Jew who believes and the Jew who does not (see 9:27). Now the Jew who believes in Christ will receive God's provision of salvation the same as a Gentile.

We, as humans, cannot understand why one person chooses to believe in Christ and another one does not, but we do know we can trust the sovereignty of God (9:20).

Paul's Desire

In chapter 9, Paul reminded the Jewish people that they were chosen. He reminded them of the sovereignty of God (9:21). But many Jewish people were still "hung up" on the old traditions.

Brothers, Paul wrote, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved (10:1).

Think how sad this must have been for Paul. His people had knowledge of sin through the law, they had the message of the prophets, they had tried to obtain righteousness

Romans Lesson 8

on their own and failed, and yet they still rejected God's gift of salvation through Christ by grace.

Paul wrote, As the Scripture says, *"Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."* For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him (10:11-12).

Paul's Answer

Paul liked to answer questions. Now he answers the question, *Did God reject his people?* (11:1). What is God going to forget Israel because they rejected his son? No, *all Israel will be saved ... And this is my covenant with them ...* (11:26-27). God still has a program for the future when he will specifically bless Israel as a nation and fulfill all his promises to them.

Paul's Illustration

But back to that tree grafting. Paul used the picture of grafting to illustrate the relationship of the Jews and Gentiles (11:17-24). He pictured the nation, Israel, as a tree root. Some branches (those who rejected God) had been cut off. Yet the root of the tree and those branches connected to the root were still alive. Then a wild branch (the Gentiles) was grafted into the tree among the living branches. Under grace, there is no difference between the Jews and the Gentiles. The full measure (supply) of grace and truth came through Christ. *For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (John 1:17)*. God provides salvation to anyone through grace (Ephesians 2:8-9), and that is a provision for which we should be continually thankful.

Romans Lesson 8

Fast Fact

You have heard that Israel was God's chosen people, but do you know in which ways they were unique? In Romans 9:4-5, Paul identifies Israel by eight characteristics.

1. **The adoption.** God calls all believers his children, but Israel is the only nation he calls "My son" (Exodus 4:22).
2. **The glory.** Israel is the only nation that enjoyed the physical presence of God. The tabernacle in later of the temple were the places where God chose to let his presence be known in a special way (Exodus 40:34-35).
3. **The covenants.** God has made many covenants with the nation Israel. Some have already been fulfilled. Others will take place in the future (Exodus 19:5; Jeremiah 31:31).
4. **The law.** God gave the law to the nation of Israel through Moses (Exodus 31:18).
5. **The temple worship.** God gave the tribe of Levi the privilege of serving at the temple in later at the temple as priests (Numbers 8).
6. **The promise.** Israel received many promises from God (Leviticus 26:45; Deuteronomy 28:6; Psalm 135:4).
7. **The patriarchs (fathers).** Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are often thought of as "the fathers" (Genesis 17:4; Exodus 3:6).
8. **Christ coming as Messiah.** Christ came to earth as a Jew (John 4:9; Hebrews 2:16).