

**Family preparation for congregational worship on December 17, 2017**

**Our Scripture-Romans 11:1-10(ESV):** *I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? 3 “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.” 4 But what is God’s reply to him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” 5 So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. 6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace. 7 What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, 8 as it is written, “God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day.” 9 And David says, “Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; 10 let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and bend their backs forever.”*

**Discuss:**

1. What is Paul’s background (v.1)?
2. Who are the elect (v.7)?
3. What results from God’s decision to harden people’s hearts? (vv.9-10)?

**Prayer:** Praise the Lord for His wonderful ways. Praise the Lord because He hears our prayers and answers them. Ask God to search your heart and cleanse you from any sin the Holy Spirit brings to mind. Pray that your words (speech) would be careful and seasoned with God’s grace and peace. Pray for troubling world events. Pray for the Gideon’s as they distribute Bibles both here and around the world. Ask the Lord who He would have you invite to church this coming Sunday.

**Memorize: (December)** *“Hear O Israel: The LORD our God, the Lord is one.” Deuteronomy 6:4*

**Music:** As you meditate and prepare your heart for worship this Sunday, sing this song to the Lord;

Without Him I could do nothing; Without Him I’d surely fail.  
Without Him I would be drifting like a ship without a sail.

Jesus, O Jesus! Do you know Him today? Do not turn Him away.  
O Jesus, O Jesus! Without Him, how lost I would be.

Without Him I would be dying; Without Him I’d be enslaved.  
Without Him life would be hopeless; But with Jesus, thank God, I’m saved.

Jesus, O Jesus! Do you know Him today? Do not turn Him away.  
O Jesus, O Jesus! Without Him, how lost I would be.

*“Without Him”*; The Celebration Hymnal, #504, Word Music/Integrity Music © 1997

N B K I L L E D B D A L  
 L D E I S R A E L E M I  
 O A P P E A L S C M M F  
 R L T S E E K C F O E E  
 D F O R E K N E W L A K  
 B E N J A M I N T I N N  
 R E J E C T E D P S S O  
 E Y A B R A H A M H G W  
 L E F T F L O N G E R A  
 I S R A E L I T E D A L  
 J A Y D A L T A R S C O  
 A Y O B T A I N T H E N  
 H S T P E O P L E P J E

ABRAHAM	ALONE	ALTARS
APPEALS	BENJAMIN	DEMOLISHED
DESCENDANT	ELIJAH	EYES
FOREKNEW	GRACE	ISRAEL
ISRAELITE	KEPT	KILLED
KNOW	LEFT	LIFE
LONGER	LORD	MEANS
OBTAIN	PEOPLE	REJECTED
SAYS	SEEK	THEN