

## **God is Wise Small Group Guide**

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Who is the smartest person you know?
2. Tell the group about a bad decision you have made in your life.

**Read the following passage:** Romans 11:33-12:2.

### **Questions for Discussion:**

This passage comes at the conclusion of Paul's explanation of the Gospel and consideration of God's purposes for the people of Israel. The rejection of Jesus as the Messiah by many of the people of Israel might have seemed like the failure of God's plan, but Paul knew that God's wisdom goes far beyond human understanding. Although Paul was pained by his people's rejection of Jesus (Romans 9:1-3), he knew that God was ultimately at work to bring about the salvation of many.

1. How should we respond when we experience pain and difficulty in our lives? (Should we just grin and bear it? Should we look for the source of pain and deal with it? Should we pray harder? Should we think about all the people who have it worse than we do?) Do you process pain in a healthy way? Explain. In what ways has this current season been difficult for you?
2. What are some ways that God uses painful experiences for our benefit?
3. Does our relative lack of wisdom (compared to God's infinite wisdom) imply that we can never really know what we should do in a particular circumstance? Explain. What are some ways you have become more wise? What has led to your growth in wisdom?
4. What does Paul mean when he writes "offer your bodies as a living sacrifice"? (Compare Luke 14:25-27, 31-33.) What does this practically look like in our friendships, workplaces, families, etc.?
5. When Paul says that we should not "conform to the pattern of this world," what kinds of things do you think he has in mind? Are there any areas of your life in which you think you are conforming to the world rather than embracing God's ways?
6. Paul instructs us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. How do we renew our minds? Can you think of a time when your perspective on something shifted significantly to align more closely with the perspective God wanted you to have?

What helped bring about that shift in perspective?

7. Paul says that the renewing of our mind leads to a knowledge of God's will. What do you think God's will for you is in this stage of your life?

**Pray**