



GROWTH GUIDE

To Only God Be the Glory

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | Romans 11:33–36

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group and family discussion or for personal reflection. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. *Soli Deo Gloria*.

Recap: Our sermon text was in Romans 11:33–36. Title: *To Only God Be the Glory*

Main points: (1) God is Wiser, (2) God is Better, (3) God is the Point.

Ice Breaker

What's the most underrated superpower and why?

Understanding the Text in Context

What's going on in the verses in Romans 11 leading up to the main text in verses 33–36? Why does Paul make this exclamation?

Paul draws on some key themes from the Old Testament. For background, read Isaiah 40:12–14 and Job 41:1–11. How do these texts help us see God as Paul sees God, especially God's wisdom and strength?

Connecting to Jesus and His Gospel

These 4 verses are at the end of a long section detailing our salvation in Christ by grace. Read verse 35. Is there anything that we can give God in order to gain something from Him, that we might put Him in our debt? How can this help us grow in humility and thankfulness about our salvation?

Read verse 36. Since God is the source and the goal of all things, how does that help us appreciate Jesus all the more? How does it help us appreciate His plan for us and for the ultimate future?

Living Out the Truth

What things in life have caused people to question God's goodness and His sovereignty?

In what areas of your life is it hard to trust that God is both good and sovereign?

In Gethsemane, how do we see Jesus wrestle rightly with God the Father? What would it look like to follow his example when we are asking God to intervene and he doesn't? (Mark 14:32-42).

How is Paul able to both have "great sorrow and unceasing anguish" (Romans 9:2) *and* then make such exclamations of joy in Romans 11:33-36? What can we learn from Paul about expectations, about humility, about trust, about worship, about marveling at God's glory?

Pray for one another.

Parenting Moment and Family Focus

Read Romans 11: 33-36 together. Discuss the grand picture of God that Paul describes. For encouragement, recount the story from Helen Roseveare about answered prayer (you can find that story here: [Prayer: One Story, Six Quotations](#)). Pray together.

Further Study

Helen Roseveare's book, [Living Faith](#), will encourage you about our Great God!

Two important books by J. I. Packer

- [Knowing God](#) — A classic even after 50 years!
- [Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God](#) — Wonderfully brings together two things that might not seem like that work together at first.

[The Misery of Job and the Mercy of God](#) (book is available as a free download) – An extended poem by John Piper. For the same truths in another format, get *Job: The Film* [here](#). Watch the trailer [here](#).

Theology leads to doxology. Read [From Praise to Praise](#) or [God, the Source of All](#)

Meditate on Romans 11:33-36. For additional help and encouragement about meditation:

- Listen to the [Podcast: Recover the Lost Art of Bible Meditation in 2023](#)
- Read: [5 Steps to Help You Practice Meditation](#) Or [5 Ways to Practice Scripture Meditation](#)

In your new John Study Journals, look ahead to next week's sermon and text for John 13:1-20 :
"Love Came Down To Serve" and "Love Came Down to Show the Way" and "Love Came Down to Be Believed."