

**“Rejoicing in the Plan of God”  
(Romans 15:7-13)**

Paul wraps up the main body of the book of Romans and the section on the weak and strong (14:1-15:13) with an exhortation to rejoice in God’s amazing plan for unity, hope and His glory in the church.

**Paul’s Plea (7)**

*Therefore receive one another just as Christ also received us to the glory of God.*

**God’s Plan (8-9a)**

*Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy...”*

- Jews → God’s **Truth**
- Gentiles → God’s **Mercy**
- Together → God’s **Glory**

**Paul’s Proof (9b-12)**

- **Psalm 18:49**  
*I will confess to You among the Gentiles*
- **Deuteronomy 32:43**  
*Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people*
- **Psalm 117:1**  
*Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles*
- **Isaiah 11:1, 10**  
*A root of Jesse...to reign over the Gentiles ...in Him the Gentiles shall hope*

**God’s Power (13)**

*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

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**Small Group/Family Discussion Guide**

**Icebreaker:** Paul calls for a close unity between Jew & Gentile. Share about a friend you have or had who was racially/culturally different than you.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What are some evidences of truly “receiving” a brother or sister? How does this kind of “receiving” bring glory to God?
2. Explain and discuss the reasons that Christ became a servant to the Jews, “the circumcision,” according to Rom 15:8-9a.
3. As a Gentile believer, what does God’s mercy (Rom.15:9a) mean to you personally? (Opportunity to express your appreciation!)
4. How do the OT citations in Rom 15:9b-12 give us hope? Note: OT Scripture was written to give us hope per 15:4
5. What part does our faith have in allowing us to experience an abundance of joy, peace and hope? (Consider Rom 15:13) What positive difference could this make in the challenges of life?

**Small Group Prayer**

Earnestly pray Rom 15:13 for people you know who are facing challenges and/or discouragement.

**Digging Deeper**

1. Ask God to help you truly obey Rom 15:7 by reflecting on this verse and the following verses - Jas 2:1-4; Lk 15:2; Acts 10:34-35; Matt10:40; Rom 12:13 and 1 Pet 4:8-10.
2. Identify in your mind a fellow believer that you have a difficult time truly “receiving as Christ receives” with joy and love. Pray for them every day this week and do an act of kindness for them.
3. Trace the theme of “Jew and Gentile” through Romans – Rom 1:5 (Gentiles = “nations”), 13-16; 2:14, 24; 3:19, 29; 5:12, 15, 17; 9:24-25, 30; 10:12-13; 11:11, 25 and 15:8-12. Why is this theme so prominent?