

# Living Connections Bible Study



## Benched

Romans 11:11-16

Prayer:

**Icebreaker:** Have you ever played some sport where the coach took you out of the game and you had to sit on the bench while someone else played in your position? How did this make you feel? Did you take any action to try and remedy the situation in the future so you would get more play time?

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1. How did God view Israel in the past? Deuteronomy 7:6

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2. **What responsibility did God expect them to fulfill before the nations? Psalm 96:2b-3**

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**Because of Israel's disobedience, unbelief, and rejection of their Messiah, God has temporarily set them on the bench.**

3. **What responsibility has the Church inherited from Israel toward the world? 1 Peter 2:9; Acts 1:8**

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**God in His foreknowledge was not taken by surprise at Israel's fall and rejection of their Messiah. In fact He planned and chose to use their unbelief to carry out His plan to provide a Savior for all.**

4. **How does God intend for fallen Israelites to respond to the grace, blessings, and salvation He extends to believing Gentiles? Romans 11:11; Deuteronomy 32:18-21**

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5. **How can/should our lives cause unbelievers to become jealous of our salvation and the privileges we have found in knowing Christ? Romans 11:13-14**

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6. **How did Israel's unbelief and hardness of heart help to carry out God's plan for the salvation of all men? Romans 11:11-12, 15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-8**

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7. Read the following verses to see how Israel failed to fulfill God's plan for them to make His glory and plan of salvation known for the world? In fact they stood in the way of those who had a genuine desire to know and follow God. Matthew 23:13; 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

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8. How did Israel's opposition to the Gospel fan the flames of evangelism in the early church? Acts 8:1-4; 13:46; 28:24-28

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This does not mean that Jews cannot be saved, nor does it mean that God is finished with Israel. All are invited to come and receive the Savior on the basis of faith. We shall see in the final verses of this chapter there is still a glorious future ahead for Israel.

9. What do you think Paul has in mind when He speaks of a coming day that results in *fullness* and *life from the dead* for the nation Israel? 11:14-15; Ezekiel 37:1-10, 14; Revelation 7:4, 9, 13-14

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10. Who is Paul referring to by the terms *firstfruit*, the *lump*, the *root* and the *branches* in relationship to Israel? Romans 11:16

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**Think about it this week:**

In Zechariah 2:8 God pronounces judgment on all the nations who come against His people Israel, saying; *He who touches you touches the apple of His eye.*

What can I/we do to bless Jews and the nation Israel?