The New International Version translation is used for the questions.

1. Have you ever tried to share the gospel with someone? How did it go? Do you consider it a success or a failure? There seems to be a lot of fear within Christians when it comes to sharing the gospel with others, what are some of those fears? What are some thoughts that we should keep in mind to help overcome our fears?
2. Read Romans 9:1-3. How does Paul express how much he desires that his fellow Jewish people would accept Christ? Read Romans 10:1-4. What does Paul say was the reason that the Jews had not accepted Christ? How is that like people today?
3. Read Romans 9:19-21. What truth is this passage conveying to us? Some have said this is a difficult truth for some people to accept, do you agree? What makes it so difficult?
4. Pastor Rick said that there are four facts about salvation that we need to understand, what are they? Two of them speak about God's grace and his mercy, what are grace and mercy and what is the relationship between them?
5. Read Romans 10:13-15. What common sense idea is presented in this passage? Who is it that has been sent to share the gospel with those who need to hear it? Have you been sent by God to take the gospel to people? How do you know?
6. What can we begin doing this week about our responsibility to share the gospel with people?

ANSWERS

1. *Whenever you make an attempt at sharing the gospel, it is never a failure because even if the person does not listen or agree with you, you are planting the seeds of God's word into their minds of which the Holy Spirit can use to change their thinking over time. (1 Corinthians 3:6,7). There are a number of things that can cause us to fear sharing our faith: I don't know what to say; what if they reject me; what if they ask questions I don't know the answer for; etc. The thoughts we need to keep in mind that help overcome our fears are: They will spend eternity in hell if they do not accept Christ; Jesus said if I want to follow him, I must become a fisher of men; God promises to bless and reward me if I share the gospel; it is not me they are rejecting, but God.*

2. *Paul said that if it were possible, he would give up his own salvation and spend eternity in hell if it would mean his Jewish countrymen would accept Christ. Paul says the reason they had not accepted Christ was that they were substituting their own righteousness by trying to keep the law for the righteousness that God provides the moment we trust Christ as savior. That is what all religious people are doing today: Instead of trusting in Jesus and his death on the cross to pay for their own sins, they are trying to be accepted by God by their own good works.*

3. *This passage is teaching that God is sovereign which means when it comes down to it, since he is God, he can pretty much do whatever he wants however he wants as long as it does not violate his nature, who he is. This is hard sometimes because we do not understand many times why God does what he does which removes many things from our control, we like to think we are in control of our lives and it bothers us when we are not. As you come to trust God and his love, you are actually glad that God is in control and we are not.*

4. *The four facts were: a. Salvation is based on God's grace, not our race; b. Salvation is based on God's promise, not our preference; c. Salvation is based on God's purposes, not our preferences; and d. Salvation is based on God's mercy, not our merit. Grace means to get something that you do not deserve. God gives us eternal life based on our faith, so we do not deserve it. Mercy is the other side of the coin, it means not getting what you do deserve. Since we are given eternal life, we do not get what we deserve because of our sin: Eternal separation from God in hell.*

5. *The common sense argument is that since it is by faith in Christ's death on the cross that brings salvation, then people who do not hear about Christ cannot trust in him, which means that someone needs to go tell them about Christ. We Christians are the ones that God has chosen to be the ones to go to the lost and tell them about Christ, so if we do not, they will not hear the message. We know that we are the ones God has chosen to do this because Christ has commanded us to go into all the world and preach the gospel to everyone (Matthew 28:19,20).*

6. *There are a number of things we can begin to do: a. Identify people in your sphere of influence that you do not know if they are believers and begin to pray that they would come to know Christ as savior; b. If we do not know how to share our faith, remedy this by learning how to do so. Grace offers classes on this or ask Pastor Mark to come to your group and teach on how to share your faith; c. Realize your fears of sharing your faith most likely are being put there by Satan's influence in the world, it is the last thing he wants you to do. Pray and ask God to help you overcome your fears.*