

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

FEB. 15 & 16 - ACTS 15 - LEARNING FROM THE PAST

OPENING QUESTION

Think back to your childhood and think of a lesson or principle you learned from a parent or grandparent. Share it with your group.

READ TOGETHER

Acts 15:1-31

BIG IDEA

The Scriptures are God's gift to help us understand how to live life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What disagreement begins the story in Acts 15? (see verses 1-2)
- 2) Thinking back over what you just read in Acts 15, in what ways do you see those gathered at the Jerusalem Council dealing with this disagreement?
- 3) Using verses 7-18 as your source, how would you sum the three contributions that Peter, Barnabas and Paul and then James make to the discussion?
- 4) What is ultimately decided by the leaders of the Jerusalem Church? (verses 19-29) Why do you sense they landed on the decision they did?
- 5) How was the decision made at the Jerusalem Council received in Antioch? (verses 30-31)
- 6) What can we learn from this story about unity and disagreements?
- 7) What can we learn from this story about the Gentiles' relationship to the Church?
- 8) What can we learn from this story about holiness and how we live?

CHALLENGE

This story reminds us that all of us are called to embrace "godly rules" in the way we live our lives. And often, those godly rules are to be embraced for the sake of other people in our lives. This week commit to thinking and evaluating everything you do. As you live your life, listen for God's voice and especially for His approval of all that is part of your life.

PRAYER

Break into groups of 2 or 3. Then answer this question: In whose lives are you most influential? Try to choose 3 people or 3 groups of people to tell those in your prayer group about. Close by praying for each other.

NEXT STEP

To read more about the idea of relational holiness, take some time this Romans 12:9-21 and Colossians 3:5-15 to how God calls us to be holy in our relationships with one another. Then ask the Holy Spirit to help you to live your life in line with how Paul calls us to live.

BECOMING
PART OF THE
RIPPLE
EFFECT

