

### **Discussion Notes: Acts 15:1-35**

#### **Observe: What does the passage say and mean?**

Review last week – context from Chapter 14

- Paul and Barnabas first “missionary journey” Lystra, Antioch, etc
- Jews and non-Jews/Greeks/Gentiles were believing
- Determined mislead devotion from Jews, Lystra crowds
- Perseverance from Paul and Barnabas

Outline points from Acts 15

- Rising dispute in Antioch church concerning what is required for salvation
- Paul and Barnabas sent to James and Jerusalem church (center of Christian church)
- Pharisees maintained that Jewish law was required to be kept for Gospel salvation
- “The Jerusalem Council” Apostles and Elders who gathered in Jerusalem to discuss this matter of Jewish law given by Moses as a requirement for Gentile salvation
- Peter’s reminders to Council
  - o God appointed him to speak Gospel to non-Jews
  - o Gentiles were believing!
  - o Gentiles were receiving Holy Spirit when they believed
  - o God was making no ethnic distinctions when building his church and establishing salvation
- Paul and Barnabas described signs and wonders done among Gentiles
- James v.20 abstain from things polluted from idols
- Consensus results in a letter to Gentile Believers
  - o Letter was delivered back to Antioch where the Believers were encouraged
- Paul decides to revisit churches on his first journey
  - o Disagreement about John Mark prompts Paul and Barnabas to go different directions

Review Points brought up in this week’s sermon

- Invite Students to share things they may have noted in their journals during the sermon
- In one sentence what is the main idea of the sermon?
  - o See Landon’s sermon notes

**GOSPEL:** How does the passage show you or point you to the good news of Jesus?

- Unity: priority in the early church among the Believers.

- Reliance on the Holy Spirit's guidance to form the church through difficult discussions and formative decisions.
- Many reports of all that God had done, from Peter, James and Paul – recounting to each other the signs and wonders – speaking the Gospel to each other!
- Unity reflected in the Council and Unity reflected in the Jerusalem letter to the Antioch Church.

APPLY: What does this passage lead you to do or believe?

- How do we struggle together as the church? How do we make unity a priority?
- How can we trust the Holy Spirit to guide us?
- What can we be thankful for in the foundations of our faith from Chapter 15?

SHARE: Who are the people in my life I will share the truths of this passage with?

- Help Students think of one person they can share the Gospel with?
- Who can they remind of the good things God has done, just like the early church did in Antioch on the arrival of Paul and Barnabas from their journey?

PRAY: How does this passage lead me to pray?

- **Connect Group:** *Pray the Lord gives each member of your CG the strength, determination, and words to share the gospel with at least one person this week.*
- **Hebron:** *Pray for the Lord to help our faith family know the gospel message and go with the Gospel message to our neighbors and to the nations.*
- **Neighbors:** *Pray for our neighbors to respond positively to the gospel by placing their faith in Jesus and being saved.*
- **Nations:** *Pray the powerful gospel of Jesus would make it to those who are unreached and unengaged. Pray for our team in Kenya right now who, with the help of the Holy Spirit, are sharing His Gospel message.*