



SESSION 3
For All
ACTS 15:6-11,24-31

Explore the Bible | Winter .18

CENTRAL TRUTH

The gospel is gloriously good news for all people.

Acts 15:6-11

Read Acts 15:6-11 and then answer the following questions.

.03 WHAT WAS THE ROOT OF DISAGREEMENT AT THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL (LOOK BACK AT VERSES 1-5 FOR MORE CONTEXT)?

.04 WHAT WAS WRONG WITH EXPECTING GENTILES TO OBSERVE JEWISH CUSTOMS? IF JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT (MATT. 5:17), WHY DON'T WE KEEP JEWISH FOOD LAWS AND FEAST DAYS TODAY?

Acts 15:24-29

Then read verses 24-29 and think through these questions.

.05 WHY WAS PETER A GREAT CANDIDATE TO SPEAK ON THIS ISSUE? WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT GOD AND THE GOSPEL THROUGH PETER'S TESTIMONY?

.06 WHO MADE THE DECISION THAT THEY HANDED DOWN IN THIS LETTER? WHO DID THEY CHOOSE TO DELIVER THE LETTER? WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT THE EARLY CHURCH?

.07 WHAT WAS THE TONE OF THE LETTER? WHAT WERE ITS MAIN POINTS?

.08 WHY SHOULD WE AVOID ADDING EXTRA RULES FOR PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH? HOW MIGHT DOING SO HINDER THE CHURCH'S MISSION (V. 28)?

Acts 15:30-31

Answer the following questions and consider journaling your answers.

.09 HOW DID THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH RESPOND TO THE LETTER? HOW MIGHT THE LETTER HAVE INFLUENCED THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH AND THE ADVANCE OF THE GOSPEL?

.10 HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND WHEN PEOPLE AROUND US CALL THE GOSPEL INTO QUESTION OR CONTRADICT IT WITH FALSE TEACHING?



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Now What?

Answer the following questions with your group as you seek to apply the truth of Scripture to your life this week.

.11 WHAT RULES DO WE TEND TO ADD ON TOP OF THE GOSPEL? WHAT DO WE COMMUNICATE TO GOD AND TO OTHERS WHEN WE DO SO?

.12 HOW CAN WE BE MORE WELCOMING AS A CHURCH? WHAT COULD WE DO AS A GROUP TO SHOW LOVE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT LIKE US?

.13 THE MAIN PURPOSE BEHIND THE LETTER WAS ENCOURAGEMENT. WHO DO YOU KNOW WHO NEEDS ENCOURAGEMENT IN THEIR FAITH RIGHT NOW? HOW COULD YOU ENCOURAGE THEM IN A WAY THEY WOULD RESPOND TO?

.14 HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL HEALTH OF OUR STUDENT GROUP? OUR CHURCH?

Personal Challenge

Dwell. It is easy for us to get caught up in rules and lose sight of the gospel's greatness and how it reaches to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). Dwell on the truth of God's Word this week. Reflect on verse 9 and how our hearts are cleansed by faith, not by any outward action. Try to commit Acts 15:9 to memory and write it on a note card somewhere where you'll see it regularly this week.

Memorize. Acts 15:9

Pray. Ask God to cleanse you and forgive you of your sin. Then give Him thanks and praise, and bring any requests you have before Him in prayer. Take time to pray for your church and your student group, specifically that you would be gracious and welcoming to those who are different from you this week.

Keep on Digging

Read Romans 1:16 and consider the context, as well as what this means for us today in our context. If you don't already have a reading plan, consider using the Bible Reading Plan as well as the 7 Arrows for Bible Reading tool.

- We need to remember that salvation is for everyone who believes, regardless of race or ethnicity.
- God's transforming power and the gospel are for all people and salvation transcends any social or cultural divides. Pray for the opportunity to share Christ with someone different from you this week.