

b. Describe the various reactions to Paul, Barnabas, and their group.

7. a. From the following verses, what do you learn about the Pharisees that would explain their insistence upon keeping the law of Moses?

Matthew 3:7-9

Mark 7:3

Luke 11:42

b. Can you think of some ways in which people are legalistic like this today?

c. What is the main lesson being taught by Paul in Galatians 5:1-6?

d. How should you apply that lesson in your own life?

DAY THREE: Read Acts 15:6-11

READING: Acts 15:6-11 [[Open NKJV](#)] [[Open NIV](#)]

8. a. How did the church leaders in Jerusalem decide to handle the situation?

b. From verse 7, how controversial do you think this matter was?

9. a. After much discussion, who spoke to the council?

b. Why would his recommendation be very important?

10. a. From Peter's speech, how had God acknowledged His acceptance of the Gentiles?

b. What distinction had God made between Jewish and Gentile believers?

c. What had God done for both Jewish and Gentile believers?

d. Considering what Peter said in vs. 7-11, how might you apply it in your church relationships?

11. a. Those who believed that Gentiles must be circumcised and keep the law of Moses in order to be saved came to be known as "Judaizers." How does Peter say the Judaizers were treating God?

b. How were they treating the Gentile believers?

c. What do you think it means to *test* God?

d. How do you think people today put God to the test?

12. How are both Gentiles and Jews saved? Give verses.

DAY FOUR: Read Acts 15:12-21

READING: Acts 15:12-21; Matthew 1:1; Genesis 9:3-4; Exodus 34:12-15; Leviticus 17:10-11; Leviticus 17:14; Leviticus 18:6-23 [[Open NKJV](#)] [[Open NIV](#)]

13. What did Paul and Barnabas share with the council?

14. a. Who spoke next and how did they support what Simon Peter had said?

b. From what prophet did he quote? (See the references in your Bible.)

15. a. The word *tabernacle* in verse 16 refers to the *house* of David. It is used metaphorically of David's family line. From Matthew 1:1, how had God rebuilt the fallen *house* of David?

b. According to prophecy, for what purpose would God rebuild the house of David?

c. How long had God been planning this? Give verse.

16. a. What was James' conclusion?

b. What restrictions did he suggest putting on the Gentiles?

c. Connect the restrictions above with the Scripture passages below.

Genesis 9:3-4

Exodus 34:12-15

Leviticus 17:10-11 and 14

Leviticus 18:6-23

d. James states in v. 19 that “we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.” How might this command be applied to our churches today?

DAY FIVE: Read Acts 15:22-35

READING: Acts 15:22-35 [[Open NKJV](#)] [[Open NIV](#)]

17. From the letter which was written to the church at Antioch:

a. What rebuke do you find of the Judaizers?

b. What praise do you find for Paul and Barnabas?

c. Who would confirm the letter in person by word of mouth to the Antioch church?

d. Who had been the guide in making the final decision? Give verse.

e. How was James' suggestion incorporated into the final decision?

f. ? (Thought Question) From all you've learned in this lesson, why were these restrictions needed?

18. a. How did the church at Antioch receive the letter?

b. How was the church further encouraged after receiving the letter?

c. How are you encouraged after reading this text in Acts?

DAY SIX: Reread Acts 15:1-29

READING: Acts 15:1-29; Romans 14:1; Romans 14:13; Romans 14:19; 1 Corinthians 10:23-24; 1 Corinthians 10:32-33 [[Open NKJV](#)] [[Open NIV](#)]

19. a. How do the following Scriptures support the decision made by the council in Jerusalem?

Romans 14:1

Romans 14:13

Romans 14:19

1 Corinthians 10:23-24

1 Corinthians 10:32-33

b. Which of the above texts was most meaningful to you and why?

20. ♥ (Heart Question) Have you ever refrained from doing something you considered appropriate and acceptable in order not to offend or put a stumbling block in the way of another Christian? Be prepared to share this with your group.