

2024 - Family Devo

July 7 - a

READ: Acts 15:1-5

Main Idea: Chapter 15 starts with a problem. Some men came from Judea (supposedly from the apostles), and they are trying to teach that for Gentiles to become Christians, they also have to become Jews, specifically circumcised. Paul and Barnabas know better than this legalism and argue with them. Nevertheless, the church sends them to the apostles in Jerusalem, to hear what they have to say. What a smart thing to do.

DISCUSS

Children: Is there anything in your life right now that you just do not understand? If so, maybe you can understand why these people just are not understanding what Paul and Barnabas are saying. But, were they confused? Or did they just NOT want to give up being God's chosen people, the Jews?

Teen: Why was sending Paul & Barnabas to Jerusalem a smart thing to do? Who do we go to in the modern church to help discern what the word of God says? Should we show respect for their counsel?

Adult: Disputes. Have you ever been in a congregation where there was a dispute? Maybe even a split among the believers? What caused the issue in the first place? Was it egos? Unwillingness to listen to what the Word says? How did the concern spread? How did the leaders address it? Or did they? As you look back, how would you deal with the issue?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Psalm 96:2 (ESV)
Sing to the LORD,
bless his name; tell of
his salvation from day
to day.

2024 - Family Devo

July 7 - b



READ: Acts 15:6-12

Main Idea: Paul and Barnabas arrive in Jerusalem and have a meeting with the apostles and elders there. Peter speaks about how God taught him in the conversion of Cornelius and his family (Gentiles) that the gospel was not just for Jews, but Gentiles too. Then Paul and Barnabas shared all the good signs and wonders God had been doing as they had been preaching the gospel to Gentiles and converting many people. How wonderful it must have been during that time, for those Christians to have the Holy Spirit guiding them and enabling signs and wonders to confirm God's word.

DISCUSS

Children: They had a meeting with the apostles and elders in Jerusalem to discuss the issue. Peter, Paul and Barnabas shared how God showed them that He makes no distinction between Jews and Gentiles because all people are saved by faith in Christ. Aren't you glad that all people can now be saved? And that we all have the same instructions on what we need to do!

Teen: Who does God want to save? Why did God have to give them an unbearable law before saving them with the grace of Jesus?

Adult: What great witnesses God provided; Peter, who first took the message to the Gentiles, with some nudging from God; and Barnabas and Paul, who have been actively working among the Gentiles and would have had many stories about the work. Would you have liked to be in the audience to hear this discussion? What part would you have appreciated most? Would you have spoken or just listened?

PRAY

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