

Journal Page

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What was the purpose of the Old Testament Law?
- Why can't the law save us?
- Why is faith in Jesus enough to receive salvation?



The Message: "Christ Alone"

Acts 15:1-35

MAIN POINT: THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM ENCOURAGED GENTILE BELIEVERS.

Paul and Barnabas had been sharing the gospel with many people—including Gentiles. But some people in the church began to teach that the Gentiles could not be saved unless they followed some of the same rules the Jews followed.

The church leaders decided to meet in Jerusalem to talk about whether or not the Gentiles needed to obey the law of Moses. Peter stood up and said to the group, "They heard the good news, and they believed. God accepted them and gave them the Holy Spirit, just as He did for us.

"We know that we cannot obey God's laws perfectly. Jews and Gentiles are saved in the same way—by the grace of the Lord Jesus."

Everyone in the group was quiet as Paul and Barnabas told them about all the things God had done through them when they were with the Gentiles. Then James pointed out that the words of the prophets showed that God wanted to save both Jews and Gentiles.

The church leaders wrote a letter to the Gentile believers. The leaders chose Judas and Silas to go to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas to deliver the letter. The believers in Antioch were encouraged by the letter.

Christ Connection: The church leaders met in Jerusalem to answer a tough question: Can a person be saved by faith alone or was something more needed? The early church agreed that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, He alone is all we need to be saved.

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