

Here are some talking points to start using to get your group talking to each other and to start generating meaningful conversations. Remember, you want others to do most of the talking.

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. Which part of the message was most impactful to you and why?

Talking About the Message Start Sharing & NOTE: Pastor Ed may not cover all points in all services.

Open: The biggest conflict to the church, the requirements for salvation, are being debated. The grace of God is being challenged by those who claim works must be added to it. In **Acts 15**, false Christianity is emerging and must be confronted. The problem was being caused by “certain men.” There will always be “certain men,” false teachers, to be confronted in the church.

Four Spiritual Leaders: Peter (the past), Paul & Barnabas (the present) and James (the future).

1. Peter, representing the past, spoke first and made the argument for salvation by grace based on his encounter with Gentiles. **V12** Paul & Barnabas, representing the present, spoke second, describing their ministry to the Gentiles. Their ministry was confirmed by miracles and wonders performed by God. What did the Judaizers have for proof that circumcision was need? **A.** Nothing.
2. **Verses 13-21** James, representing the future, spoke third, reviewed the testimonies and scripture, and gave his viewpoint and final ruling.
3. **Verses 14-17** James quotes from Amos for what purpose? **A.** To support Peter’s testimony with scripture. Point: Amos makes no mention that Gentiles need to become Jews in order to be saved. **Verses 18** How soon in the course of history did God know He would call the Gentiles? **A.** From the very beginning. **Verses 19-21** James transitioned from doctrinal issues to the practical matters of fellowship with a short list of requirements. What are a few requirements that are not included? **A.** Water baptism, church attendance, bible reading etc. What is the intention of James with these specific requirements? **A.** Not to offend and to create unity between Jew & Gentile believers.
4. **List of Requirements: Verses 20-21**
 - A. Abstain from things polluted by idols; B. Abstain from sexual immorality; C. Abstain from animals strangled and from blood.
5. **Verses 15:22-24** The agreement pleased the whole group, leading to what? **A. v 22** Unity. Application: What must we do to ensure unity within the body? **A.** Make room for differing viewpoints within the realm of non-essentials. Is disagreement within the body ok with regards to non-essentials? **A.** No. They should not divide the body. **Mark 3:24-25 & Psalm 133:1**
 - **The letter: verse 24.** What did the false teachers cause for new believers? **A.** The new believers were troubled (to agitate or create fear) and unsettled (to overthrow & ravage). Application: We should be careful not to unsettle the faith of others.
6. **Verses 25-29** The unity of the leaders is confirmed and the decision is affirmed by the Holy Spirit.
7. **Verses 30-31** What did the people do when they read the letter? **A.** Rejoiced. There was relief that circumcision was not required for salvation.

Start Praying & Start Doing. Check Prayer Requests, & pray.

Talk to your group about (1) creating profiles on the Calvary App so your group can create a group chat on the app. Let Pastor Josh know so he can set your group up for you. (2) Encourage your group to read ahead. (3) Please remember to fill out the LIFEgroup meeting assessment form after your meeting. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/LIFEgroup-Assessment>

LIFEgroups

talk it over | week 6

discussion | study 24468

Grace Triumphs Over Legalism Part 2

Acts 15:13-35

Pastor Ed Taylor