

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.

Setting/Open: See vision statement on the Calvary Church website, about then our vision. There was false teaching in the early church related to legalism and traditions. These detract and distract from the simplicity of Jesus. It was happening in the early church and is still happening in the church today. **Matt 15:7-9**

Background verses: Acts 15:3-5

Review the questions that the church leaders were going to have to settle. What were the requirements for salvation? Did salvation require converts to keep the law and perform rituals (works -v- grace)? Was Christianity going to be a sect of Judaism, or something altogether different?

Acts 15:6-12

1. **15:6** Who came together to decide the important issue of what must be done to be saved? **A.** Only the God appointed church leaders came together to decide the matter. The input from the congregation was not sought.

Look at Four Key Leaders: (the first three this week – mostly Peter)

2. **15:7-11 Peter – represents the Past:** Peter testifies that salvation is by what? **A.** Grace (v11).

John 1:16-17 (grace for grace); **Heb 10:1-5** Jesus was the once & for all final sacrifice.

Gal 3:24-25 Justified by faith – not by the law.

- What was the heart of the matter? **A.** Salvation was by grace or works (circumcision & rituals).
- Who is the head of the Church? **A.** Jesus. He desires to lead us – in our homes, at work, etc.
- What must we do to be in God's will? **A.** Yield to the Holy Spirit and reject our flesh.
- What four things did Peter bring up from the past? **A.** 1) **v7** God called him to the Gentiles; 2) **v8** The Gentiles were given the Holy Spirit just like to the Jews; 3) **v9** God is no respecter of persons. **Act 10:34-35 & Rom 3:9**; 4) **v10-11** God gave the Gentiles salvation through grace.

Gal 3:1-3 (Oh foolish Galatians)

Discuss The Yoke (An intolerable burden): **Matt 11:28-30**

3. **15:12-18 Paul & Barnabas – the Present:** They testified about their ministry to the Gentiles – the conversions, the signs & wonders.
4. Discuss the two questions Jesus asked the disciples in **Luke 9:20-22** and the importance of knowing who Jesus really is. Who did the people think Jesus was? Who did the disciples, based on Peter's response, believe Jesus was? **Matt 16:17** (revelation from God) Jesus is more than a good teacher, a moral leader and compassionate man; He is our Savior, the Messiah.

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 5

discussion | study 24467

Grace Triumphs Over Legalism Part 1

Acts 15:6-12

Pastor Ed Taylor