



## Small Group Study Questions

Week 24

### Acts 15:1-12 (NASB 1995)

Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” 2 And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue. 3 Therefore, being sent on their way by the church, they were passing through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and were bringing great joy to all the brethren. 4 When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. 5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses.”

6 The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter. 7 After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. 8 And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us; 9 and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. 10 Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? 11 But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.”

12 All the people kept silent, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul as they were relating what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

## DIGGING DEEPER

Have you ever confronted false teaching? (Could be in a church or in the public square) Tell us about it?

Can you summarize last week's teaching on circumcision?

### **Read Acts 15:1-3**

How important was it that Paul had Barnabas with him? (Personal question: Do you have a Barnabas? Can you be a Barnabas in someone's life?)

What were they doing on their journey to Jerusalem? Why is that important?

### **Read Acts 15:4-5**

What do you know about the Pharisees as a whole?

What's good about these Pharisees in verse 5? What's not good about them?

## DIGGING DEEPER

### Read Acts 15:6-9

When did Peter first speak to Gentiles about the gospel? (Hint: Cornelius) Go and look at that passage again if need be.

Has God acted any differently with the Gentiles than he has with the Jews?

### Read Acts 15:10-12

According to Peter, what's his attitude about circumcision and following the Law?

Spend time as a group praising God for his Grace in your life. If interested, you could sing or at least go over the words that John Newton wrote to express his praise.

## TAKING IT HOME

## PRAYER REQUEST

