



Lesson Title: The Council in Jerusalem

Scripture Focus: Acts 15:28–29

The Lesson in Context

Humans have always had the tendency to look down on others. There are many reasons for this fallacy, but in the church of Jesus Christ, it must not be allowed to fester and grow. Herein lies the great challenge for every generation of believers: Will we stand against divisions in the church? Examining ourselves regularly is an important function in our walk with God. We must ask God to show us and root out our prejudices or pride so we can help keep the church united and bless the world around us.

Just because someone is different from us does not negate our ability to connect with them and lead them to Jesus Christ. It would be good practice for every child of God to work hard at meeting new people and interacting with different people groups and cultures. Jesus' last message to His disciples was to go into all the world and preach the gospel. This reveals the heart of God—He wants all of humanity to have the message of salvation.

Group Discussion

1. What can we learn about the disciples' quest for unity without compromising the truth of the gospel?
2. What elements are always necessary in resolving an issue at work, in your family, and in the church?
3. How can you reach out to someone from a different culture?
4. What do we learn from the list of four prohibitions the apostles agreed on in Acts 15? How does this decision apply to us?
5. Name some ways you individually can help maintain unity within the local church?

My Prayer for the Upcoming Week

How do you want to be different because of what you have experienced today?
