



Life Group Discussion Guide

Align

Part 1: Aligning with God's purposes – Acts 15:1-19

Scott Paulson

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Main thought: In order to fulfill the mission of the church we need to be people who are aligned with God's vision and purpose for the church.

Notes:

Getting aligned with God's purposes requires a commitment to...

Our Foundations:

- The **Bible** – Our final **authority**
- The **Gospel** – Our only **hope**

Staying aligned with God's purposes requires a commitment to...

Our Mission

- We exist to people **find** and **follow** Jesus

How can you align with the mission of the church?

1. Remember to keep an **outward** focus over an **inward** focus
2. Keep the **Gospel** the **main** thing
3. Don't create **obstacles** that keep people from **turning** to God

Welcome and Fellowship Time (suggested time 10 min)

Open in Prayer

Ice-Breaker (suggested sharing time 5-10 min)

- What is your favorite mode of transportation: plane, train, automobile, bike or boat?

Week in Review (suggested sharing time 5-10 min)

- How have you been challenged in your endurance this past week and how has God met you in your challenge?

Digging In (suggested time 15 min)

Allow several in your group to read Acts 15:1-19 and discuss the following questions.

- What stood out to you from this passage or message?



- Why do you think it was both encouraging and challenging for the first century Jewish church to accept and incorporate non-Jewish believers?
- How do similar challenges show up in churches today?
- What are all the positive steps taken to address the misalignment in the church in Acts 15?
- Why is the decision of the Jerusalem council so important? What impact has facing this early misalignment in the church had on the history of the church?

Further Reflection (suggested time 10 minutes)

- Read Isaiah 49:6: How does this Old Testament prophesy further confirm the alignment of the church with God's purposes in Acts 15?

Application (suggested time 10 minutes)

- Which principle/application did you most need to hear and apply from this passage?
- What next step do you need to take in response to this passage?

Spend time gathering prayer requests, praying for each other & praying for application of the study in the lives of the group members. (Suggested time 20 minutes)