

What's Next? | Acts 15:1-16:5 2021 Fall #3

Announcements: The church has Steven Ministers who are trained to offer one on one support to folks in any kind of life strain - divorce, grief, loss of job, new baby, adoption, codependency, etc. Who in your group could benefit? Ask if they would be interested and get permission before contacting Stephen Ministry for them.

Administration: Try every means possible to make contact with new folks assigned to your group. Use email, phone and text. Contact Elizabeth or Cindy if you were not able to reach someone.

Tips: It is difficult to manage time so that the agenda is accomplished while no one feels rushed and people are not kept late. You might keep your materials on a clipboard with a clock on the top so you can keep time but not appear to be checking the clock. Plan ahead for how much time to give to each segment of the meeting and what time you want to be starting each portion. Respect people's time by ending promptly.

My Story Questions

These questions help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one.

- 1) Tell of a time you lived with an extended family member or had one live with you? What did you learn.
- 2) Would you rather.....be a world class musician or a master artist? Why?

Study Questions

These are meant for personal preparation and group discussion. Use all or pick a few to discuss.

Read Acts 15:1-5

- 1) What wrong thinking was being taught? How does this view cheapen Christ's work on the cross? (Galatians 2:21)
- 2) What do people try to add as requirements to salvation today? Do you feel the weight of having to earn salvation?

Read Acts 15:6-21

- 3) Fill in the blanks to the following doctrinal statement: Salvation is by G____ alone through F____ alone in C____ alone for both Jew and Gentile. (Eph 2:8, Acts 15:11).
- 4) Summarize how each speaker argued this point: Peter(7-11) Paul (12) James (13-19).
- 5) God's Word informed James. What are you doing to become more informed by God's Word?

Read Acts 15:19-35

- 6) What actions were the Gentile believers asked to graciously observe. How did they foster unity?
- 7) What actions could you choose that would show grace to your co-workers, your small group, your extended family?
- 8) How does receiving grace enable giving grace?

Read Acts 15:36-41

- 9) "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty. On what did Paul and Barnabus disagree? Was one right?
- 10) What positive things resulted from their disagreement?
- 11) What actions can keep disagreements on non-essentials from harming others.

Read Acts 16:1-5

- 12) Why would circumcising Timothy enable the gospel to spread further? Compare to 1 Corinthians 9:22
- 13) How is Timothy's circumcision a show of grace while other circumcisions were a show of compromise?
- 14) This grace was costly to Timothy. When has offering grace been costly to you?

Responding to Jesus

These questions are meant for personal reflection before your group prayer time.

- 1) Lord, Do I see your life as totally sufficient or am I trying to earn salvation? Spend time thanking Him for grace.
- 2) Lord, where do I have an opportunity to sacrifice my freedoms for the sake of others.

Further Challenge

- 1) Go to the Website of Two Rivers Church and read the Statements of Faith that are our essential doctrines.