

166. The Council in Jerusalem (Acts 14:26-15:35)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the wonderful good news about our salvation through Jesus. Make us know Your word, the Bible, very well. Then when disagreements happen, we can read Your word and see what You say. Then we can continue to live together in Your peace. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Acts 14:21-28.

- People in Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch hated Paul and Barnabas and tried to kill Paul. Why did they go back through those cities?
- Paul and Barnabas said, "We must suffer much to enter God's kingdom." What does that mean? What kind of suffering are they talking about?

Acts 15:1-4.

- Some men came from Judea to Antioch. What did they teach?
- Did the church in Antioch accept that teaching?
- If we disagree with what someone believes, what is the right thing to do?
 1. Say nothing.
 2. Ignore the person and hope they change.
 3. Try to kick the person out of the church.
 4. Talk to them and church leaders about their beliefs or teaching.

Acts 15:5-11.

- Peter talked about a burden. What was the burden the Jews had?
- How did Peter say Jews and non-Jews are saved?

- How did Peter know God saved non-Jews without circumcision? Where did Peter see that happen? (Hint: in a previous lesson, not this one.)
- Some people might say disagreeing about circumcision is nothing important. Circumcision or not, we should accept either way. Why was this so important?

Acts 15:12-21.

- Now the non-Jews can believe in Jesus and join the church. Some people say the church made that decision; they say God didn't decide that. Who really decided non-Jews can join the church?
- James was the leader of the church in Jerusalem. What 4 things did he say non-Jews shouldn't do?

Acts 15:22-23,30-35.

- Why did Judas, Silas, Paul and Barnabas go back to Antioch? What was their job?
- Was the church in Antioch happy to hear what they said?
- What church (city) were Paul and Barnabas from? What church (city) were Judas and Silas from? How was the church in Jerusalem wise when they sent those four men together to Antioch?
- The issue of circumcision could have caused a big split between Jerusalem and Antioch. The church in Jerusalem discussed, decided, and wrote a letter. The church in Antioch was happy to see the letter, but how did they really show they were still in unity with the church in Jerusalem?