



discussion guide

Mission of grace and faith

Acts 15:1-35

► ***Thought starter***

What's helpful and unhelpful about the old bumper sticker: "*Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven*"?

► **Read Acts 14:26-15:4**

1. What's the issue confronting the church? How serious is it? How difficult is it to understand the perspective of the people from Judea?

2. What do you make of the response of Paul and Barnabas and the church to the issue?

3. What is there for us to learn about the response of the Antioch and Jerusalem churches in these verses?

► **Read Acts 15:5-11**

4. Thinking back over what we've read so far in Acts, what is Peter referring to in vv. 7-9? Why is it especially significant that Peter makes this point?

5. What is Peter's warning in v10?

6. To help us appreciate Peter's concluding statement in v. 11, try to write it in your own words.

► **Read Acts 15:12-21**

7. James refers to Amos 9:11-12. What is important about this promise of God in answering the issue before them?

8. In v19-21 James "solves" 2 issues: whether Gentile Christians must obey the law of Moses and how Gentile Christians can love their Jewish brothers and sisters. Describe these 2 solutions.

9. What questions do you have about James' judgment? Help each other wrestle with them.

► **Read Acts 15:22-31**

10. What do we learn from the response of the Antioch church?

11. The sharp disagreement described at the beginning of the chapter threatened the continued spread of the gospel into the Gentile world. What can we give thanks for in these verses?

~~~~~

Looking back over the whole passage, what do we learn of the Lord Jesus and his mission?

What encouragements and challenges are there for you in your daily life?

► **Pray together**