

WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday August 9, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

In **Acts 15:1–19**, God is not inviting people to earn His acceptance by being good enough, religious enough, or consistent enough. He is inviting us to trust fully in the grace of Jesus and allow that grace to transform how we live. We naturally want to add something to grace because receiving a gift we cannot earn can challenge our pride. That same struggle can show up when we measure our relationship with God by our performance instead of what Christ has done. This passage invites us to examine what we are trusting and learn to rest in Jesus while following Him in obedience.

Main Passage:

Acts 15:1–19

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Jesus Is Enough

READ ALOUD

Acts 15:1–19

Opening Question: What is something you have a hard time accepting without feeling like you need to earn it?

- What stands out to you about the disagreement happening in this passage?
- What reasons do Peter and James give for believing the Gentiles do not need to add anything to faith in Jesus?
- What does this passage reveal about the difference between trusting Jesus and trusting our own religious performance?
- Where are people most tempted today to turn following Jesus into “Jesus plus something”?

APPLY

- Where are you most tempted to measure your relationship with God by how well you are performing?
- What is something you may be adding to Jesus to feel accepted, forgiven, secure, or spiritual?
- If you truly believed Jesus is enough, what would change about the way you respond to your successes, failures, or struggles this week?

RESPOND

- What is one area where you need to stop striving and trust what Jesus has done for you?
- What is one practical way you can respond to God's grace through obedience this week?

DIGGING DEEPER *(optional)*

Acts 15:20–35

- How does the church respond after settling the question of salvation by grace?
- What do you notice about how they communicate truth while also caring for the people involved?
- How does this part of the chapter show that grace does not eliminate obedience, but changes the reason we obey?

PRAY

Ask God to reveal where pride, fear, guilt, or religious performance has replaced trust in His grace. Pray for faith to rest in what Jesus has done and courage to obey Him because we belong to Him, not to earn His acceptance. Thank Jesus for His grace, forgiveness, and transforming work in our lives.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Acts 15:1–19

- What do you learn about Jesus and His grace from this passage?
- Why do you think people sometimes feel like they have to earn God's love?
- What is the difference between obeying Jesus to earn His love and obeying because He loves us?
- What is one way our family can trust and obey Jesus this week?

For younger children: Help your child understand that we don't obey Jesus to make Him love us; we can trust Him and obey Him because He loves us.

For older kids or students: Where do you feel pressure to prove yourself, and how could trusting Jesus change the way you respond to that pressure?

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- **Day 1:** Acts 16:1–10
- **Day 2:** Acts 16:11–15
- **Day 3:** Acts 16:16–24
- **Day 4:** Acts 16:25–34
- **Day 5:** Acts 16:35–40

What's Going On?

Acts 15 records one of the most important moments in the early church. As more Gentiles began trusting Jesus, some believers argued that they also needed to follow the law of Moses, including circumcision, in order to be saved. The apostles and elders gathered in Jerusalem to settle the issue.

Peter points to what God had already done: God gave the Holy Spirit to Gentile believers and cleansed their hearts by faith without requiring them to first become Jews. Peter concludes, “We believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus in the same way they are.”

The issue underneath the entire conversation is still relevant: Is Jesus enough, or are we trusting Jesus plus something else? Grace removes our ability to boast because salvation is something we receive rather than something we earn. But that grace does not leave us unchanged. As the sermon emphasizes, knowing Jesus changes how we want to live.

A Bit of Background

Circumcision was a major marker of Jewish covenant identity. For generations, it distinguished God's covenant people from the surrounding nations. So when Gentiles began following Jesus without adopting these Jewish practices, the early church faced a major question: Must Gentiles become Jewish in order to belong to God's people?

Acts 15 answers no. God welcomes people through the grace of Jesus, received by faith. That truth protected the gospel from becoming “Jesus plus” religious performance and opened the way for the gospel to continue spreading among the nations.