



The Acts of the Spirit

TURNING TO THE GENTILES

ACTS 15:1-5

"THE DISSENSION"

MAY 26, 2024

SUMMARY

Pastor Joey used the image of a large family meal – with adults at one table and the kids excluded and sent to their own table – to picture the situation in the early church seen in these verses. Some Jewish believers were excluding Gentile believers who hadn't already been conforming to Jewish religious practices.

This raised these crucial questions: **Who's in the family of God and how do we know?**

DISCUSSION

Expand Your Awareness

Of all the historical context we have learned about the 1st-century Roman world from the Book of Acts, what has jumped out to you the most? What seems familiar? What seems strange and distant?

- What would it have been like living in one of these towns as the Gospel took root?

Pastor Joey highlighted the four social groups this radical new gospel of Jesus Christ would have pressured:

- Jewish non-believers
 - Jewish believers in Jesus
 - Gentile believers already pursuing Judaism
 - Gentile believers not practicing Judaism
- What types of conversations do you think each group has about the gospel around their dinner table?



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: you do not need to ask every question but can select the best ones for your group dynamic.



ACTS 15:1-5

Extract The Truth

Read Acts 15:1-5

- What jumped out to you?
- In your own words, why was there so much pressure to keep a “two-table” works-righteousness system?
- Putting ourselves in the place of Peter and Barnabas, why would pressure from Jewish believers have been so persuasive as to make them disassociate from Gentile believers?
- What was at stake in allowing a “two-table” system that caused Paul to so strongly oppose/reprimand his Jewish brothers?

Experience Transformation

How is our society similar to these four people groups?

- Jewish non-believers
 - Jewish believers in Jesus
 - Gentile believers already pursuing Judaism
 - Gentile believers not practicing Judaism
- How is each one pressuring/impacting the spread of the Gospel?
 - Where are we vulnerable to being persuaded or pressured like Peter/Barnabas?
 - What issues might be some “boundary markers” in our cultural setting for determining who’s in the family of God and who couldn’t be?
 - What can we take away/apply from Paul’s response?
 - What is at stake if we don’t defend the “one-table” truth of the Gospel?
 - What do you want to put into practice from this study, and how can your family, community group, or friends at Faith help you do that this week?

Prayer

Pray for the Gospel needs of each of modern equivalent to the four people from our discussion today:

- Jewish non-believers
- Jewish believers in Jesus
- Gentile believers already pursuing Judaism
- Gentile believers not familiar with Judaism



**PREPARE FOR
NEXT WEEK:**

Read Acts 15:6-21