

Momentum- A Study in Acts
Family – Study Guide
Acts 15

Big Idea: There is beauty in the mess.

Many of us are dealing with fragmented relationships, and family tensions. We are encouraged by the early church as they wrestled through doctrinal and personal issues.

1. Share a time when you had to work through a doctrinal or personal issue with someone and how it felt and what happened in the process. What are some of the good things that can come out of such conflict?
2. Read Acts 15:1-18. What did Peter, Paul and Barnabas and James conclude in regard to whether Gentiles needed to be circumcised in order to be saved? What does this say about the gospel? Why do people have a hard time accepting the free gift of grace?
3. Read Acts 15:19-21. If salvation is by grace through faith alone, then why did James still ask the Gentiles to obey certain laws? Read Matthew 5:17. What do you think is the meaning of this passage? What is the greatest law for us today? (John 13:35). Share a situation when you chose to give up a freedom of yours, for the sake of loving another fellow believer.
4. Read Acts 15:36-40. Notice that Paul and Barnabas had a “sharp disagreement”. It actually led to them no longer working together. Instead, God formed two teams. Share a time when you had a sharp disagreement with someone. How can we ‘fight’ in godly ways, without sinning against each other? Discuss.

Application

Yes, there is beauty in the mess. How are you doing on relational joy? Is there someone you feel led to reach out to this week? Despite the messiness of relationships, can you see yourself loving others as Christ loved you? Pray for each other as you process the current relationships you have.

Momentum

A STUDY IN ACTS

THE BOOK OF ACTS

10-Week Reading Plan

Use this reading plan to prepare you for the weekly sermons at our weekend services. Ask God to speak to you through His word and the Holy Spirit.

WEEK 1 - INCEPTION

Sep. 25 & 26 Acts 1-2:41 (*Sermon*)

WEEK 2 - DEVOTED

Sep. 27 Acts 1:1-11

Sep. 28 Acts 1:12-26

Sep. 29 Acts 2:1-13

Sep. 30 Acts 2:14-28

Oct. 1 Acts 2:29-41

Oct. 2 Acts 2:42-47

Oct. 2 & 3 Acts 2:42-47 (*Sermon*)

WEEK 3 - BOLD

Oct. 4 Acts 3:1-10

Oct. 5 Acts 3:11-26

Oct. 6 Acts 4:1-22

Oct. 7 Acts 4:23-37

Oct. 8 Acts 5:1-16

Oct. 9 Acts 5:17-42

Oct. 9 & 10 Acts 3-5 (*Sermon*)

WEEK 4 - FULL

Oct. 11 Acts 6:1-7

Oct. 12 Acts 6:8-15

Oct. 13 Acts 7:1-19

Oct. 14 Acts 7:20-38

Oct. 15 Acts 7:39-53

Oct. 16 Acts 7:54-8:3

Oct. 16 & 17 Acts 6-8:3 (*Sermon*)

WEEK 5 - FLOURISH

Oct. 18 Acts 8:4-25

Oct. 19 Acts 8:26-40

Oct. 20 Acts 9

Oct. 21 Acts 10

Oct. 22 Acts 11

Oct. 23 Acts 12

Oct. 23 & 24 Acts 8:4-12 (*Sermon*)

WEEK 6 - MOBILE

Oct. 25 Acts 13:1-12

Oct. 26 Acts 13:13-42

Oct. 27 Acts 13:43-52

Oct. 28 Acts 14:1-7

Oct. 29 Acts 14:8-20

Oct. 30 Acts 14:21-28

Oct. 30 & 31 Acts 13-14 (*Sermon*)

WEEK 7 - FRAMILY

Nov. 1	Acts 15:1-6
Nov. 2	Acts 15:7-11
Nov. 3	Acts 15:12-21
Nov. 4	Acts 15:22-35
Nov. 5	Acts 15:36-40
Nov. 6	Acts 16:1-5
Nov. 6 & 7	Acts 15-16:5 (Sermon)

WEEK 8 - SHAKE

Nov. 8	Acts 16:6-15
Nov. 9	Acts 16:16-40
Nov. 10	Acts 17
Nov. 11	Acts 18
Nov. 12	Acts 19
Nov. 13	Acts 20:1-16
Nov. 13 & 14	Acts 16:6-20:16 (Sermon)

WEEK 9 - WITNESS

Nov. 15	Acts 20:17-21:36
Nov. 16	Acts 21:37-22:29
Nov. 17	Acts 22:30-23:35
Nov. 18	Acts 24
Nov. 19	Acts 25:1-22
Nov. 20	Acts 25:23-26:32
Nov. 20 & 21	Acts 20:17-26:32 (Sermon)

WEEK 10 - GO

Nov. 22	Acts 27:1-12
Nov. 23	Acts 27:13-26
Nov. 24	Acts 27:27-44
Nov. 25	Acts 28:1-10
Nov. 26	Acts 28:11-16
Nov. 27	Acts 28:17-31
Nov. 27 & 28	Acts 27-28 (Sermon)

As you read throughout this series please feel free to send your thoughts to acts@communityfellowship.com by Wednesday of each week. We are excited to hear from you about what God is teaching and revealing to you through the readings. It's possible that what God is saying to you may be something He wants to share with our church family. Your submission may be something we share with the Church on the weekend.



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Family

Acts 15

Big Idea: There is beauty in the mess.

I. The Beauty of the Gospel (Acts 15:1-18)

But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

Galatians 1:6-8

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.”

I. The Beauty of the Gospel (Acts 15:1-18)

³So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. ⁴When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them.

describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles. ⁵But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.”

⁶The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.

A. Peter- Saved by Grace (Acts 15:7-11)

⁷And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, ⁹and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. ¹⁰Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?”¹¹ But we believe that **we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus**, just as they will.”

Eph. 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...”

B. Barnabas and Paul (Acts 15:12)- Affirmed by Miracles

¹²And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

C. James (Acts 15:13-18) Affirmed by Scripture

¹³After they finished speaking, James replied, “Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. ¹⁵And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written,

¹⁶“After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen;

I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, ¹⁷that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things ¹⁸known from of old.’

II. The Beauty of Love (Acts 15:19-35)

¹⁹Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, ²⁰but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. ²¹For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.

Image: Laws

What does this mean?

Jesus: Matthew 5:17

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

John 13:35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

What does love require?

James 2:8

“If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.”

The Council's Letter to Gentile Believers (Acts 15: 22-35)

“²⁵it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,”

III. The Beauty of Differences (Acts 15:36-41)

³⁶And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.” ³⁷Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, ⁴⁰but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Godly fighting:

1. Say what you need to say face to face.
2. Admit that there can be more views than your own.
3. Listen well.
4. Agree to disagree honorably.

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