



Personal Study Guide // Life Group Connection Guide

Seeks to help you dig deeper into God's Word on your own and/or aid in small group discussion in a Life Group during the week. Follow the simple prompts below in a journal or together in a small group setting. If you would like to join a midweek Life Group, please contact: jon@neighborhoodchurch.com

Apr 21 — STEPPING OUT to make room for others (Acts 15:1-35)

- **Welcome & Ice Breaker**

- Have you ever had a disagreement or conflict with someone over something that was so important you just knew you had to address it? What was the issue? Why was it so important? How did you go about addressing it? How was the issue resolved? What do you think would have happened if you had not addressed the disagreement or conflict?

- **Important Dates**

- **Welcome to the Family Church Membership Class** • Sundays April 21, 28, May 5 & 12
 - *If interested, please email: terry@neighborhoodchurch.com*

- **Missional Sharing:**

- This time of sharing is dedicated to help us strengthen awareness of the Holy Spirit's prompting in our lives and, help us share our opportunities and obstacles as we encourage each other to follow where Jesus leads.

- 1-2 group members will share the following each week:
 - *Who is the Holy Spirit bringing to your attention in the last 7 days? What do you notice about that person? How have you felt God has prompted you to interact with them? What has kept you from do that? How can our life group pray for you this next week.*

- **Scripture Passage: Acts 15:1-35**

- Begin by reading the passage out loud; even a few times if it is a shorter passage in order to let it settle down inside you.
- As the Scripture is being read, pay attention to any word, phrase, or feeling that the Holy Spirit may be highlighting to you.
- Then share what you noticed and/or write down your observations as the Spirit leads.

- **Discussion/Personal Reflection:**

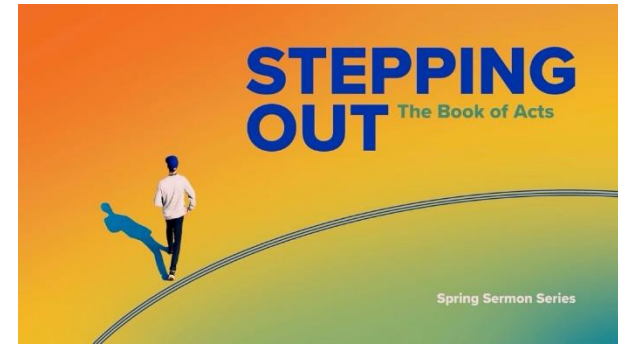
- What challenged or impacted you during your devotional time with the Lord Jesus this week?
- If you were able to hear it, what did the Holy Spirit point out to you personally from Sunday's sermon?
- Read Acts 15:1-5. Some of the believers who were Pharisees were saying that new Gentile Christians could not be saved unless they were circumcised and kept the law of Moses. Why was this so important to these Pharisees? (Read Genesis 17:9-14 for additional context.)

- Read Galatians 3:1-9. In light of this passage, why was the legalism taught by the believing Pharisees a threat to the unity of the early Church? What does “legalism” look like today? Why does it threaten unity?

- Read Acts 15:7-12. A big part of the healthy, Spirit-led discussion that took place in this week’s passage involved Peter, Paul, and Barnabas communicating about what God was doing in their ministry & lives. How has God been leading you and working in your life recently?

- **Closing in Prayer:**

- Use this time to share prayer requests (with the Lord in a journal or with each other in a Life Group), holding them up to the Lord Jesus for His care & guidance this next week.
- Consider those who the Holy Spirit may be placing on your heart to pray for this day. Seek to hold them up to the Lord for His intervening love in their lives or in your own.
- *“Lord, who are You putting on my heart today? Who needs a special touch from You in their life? Who can I hold up to You in prayer?”*



Stepping Out to Make Room for Others

Acts 15:1-35

April 21, 2024

“Healthy, Spirit-led conflict resolution affirms the truth of the gospel and promotes the unity and growth of the church.”

Three steps the early Church took to resolve conflict:

1. Identify and address the conflict before it divides (Acts 15: 1-5)
2. Encourage healthy, Spirit-led discussion (Acts 15:6-18)
3. Make and communicate a decision that is based on love for Jesus and each other (Acts 15:19-35)