*August 10, 2025*

**Small Group Study - Participant Guide**

Grace Alone

*Acts 15:1-35*

**Main Theme:** Staying anchored in the gospel of grace

**Scripture Context**

* This is often called the **Jerusalem Council** — a crucial moment in church history where leaders gathered to resolve a sharp theological dispute.
* The core issue: Must Gentiles follow Jewish laws (especially circumcision) to be saved?
* The decision preserved gospel clarity: salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus, not by religious law-keeping.
* The church models humility, discernment, and unity even amid disagreement.

**Discussion Questions**

**The Dispute Emerges**

*Read Acts 15:1–5*

1. What does verse 1 reveal about what some believers were teaching?

2. How did the church in Antioch respond in verses 2–3?

3. What is the disagreement really about at its core?

**Peter Speaks About God’s Grace**

*Read Acts 15:6–11*

1. In verses 7–8, what does Peter say God did among the Gentiles?

2. What reason does Peter give in verse 10 for opposing the legalistic teaching?

3. What does verse 11 teach about how anyone is saved?

**James Brings Biblical Wisdom**

*Read Acts 15:12–21*

1. What do verses 12–14 add to the conversation about what God is doing?

2. In verses 15–18, how does James use Scripture to support their decision?

3. Why does James suggest the four abstentions in verse 20?

**The Church Responds with Clarity and Unity**

*Read Acts 15:22–29*

1. What stands out about the way the church makes this decision together (vv. 22–23)?

2. According to verses 24–26, what are they affirming about those who had been disturbed?

3. What’s the tone of the letter in verses 28–29?

**Encouragement and Strengthening**

**Read Acts 15:30–35**

1. What is the response of the Gentile believers in verse 31?

2. What roles do Judas, Silas, Paul, and Barnabas play in strengthening the church?

**Application Questions**

1. Where are you tempted to add extra requirements — for yourself or others — when it comes to being accepted by God?

2. How does remembering God's grace in your own salvation shape the way you view others who are different from you?

3. How can we be thoughtful about our actions and practices, so we don’t create unnecessary obstacles for others in their faith?

4. When facing disagreement or confusion in the church, how can we pursue clarity and unity without compromising truth?

5. How can you intentionally encourage someone this week with truth that builds them up in their faith?

**Living It Out – Reflection Questions**

1. What are some ways we unintentionally add burdens to others' faith journeys?

2. How does gospel grace bring freedom — not just in salvation, but in everyday life?

3. Who in your life needs to be reminded that God’s acceptance is based on grace, not performance?