Icebreaker:
Did you feel like you had extra rules in your church growing up? If yes, what were those “rules?”

Questions:
1. It didn’t seem right to Paul and Barnabas that new believers must be circumcised to be saved. Do you ever feel like the Church adds expectations we need to meet to be saved – or even accepted?
2. Do you have some area of your faith where you are going back and forth (like the Council with rules for Gentiles or Peter and Paul in Galatians 2:11-14) because you are not sure what is right?
3. The early church and the Council deal with their conflict and come to an agreed solution. How does this interaction between leaders of the early church reflect the character of God? What can we take from their example about handling conflict in our own churches or relationships?
4. In the end, the Council agrees not to make it difficult for Gentiles to come to faith. But they still ask Gentiles in writing to abstain from certain activities, (parts of the Jewish law dealing with not worshiping idols) which would help their Jewish sisters and brothers interact with them. What activities today do you wrestle with that might help you get along with, or keep you isolated from, other Christians?
5. Paul and Barnabas tell stories of how Gentiles had come to know Christ. Peter tells his story of how he was called to share the message of the gospel with Gentiles. Why is it important to share stories of faith? Why does it matter if we share our own stories?
6. When has someone’s story helped you in your faith? When has your story helped someone else’s faith journey?

Homework:
This is the last week of Home Groups until January. As we approach Advent, consider ways you can serve and celebrate individually and as a group. Some ideas: Attend ZPC Date Night on 11/18; share a meal as a group, either at a restaurant or someone’s home; fill an Operation Christmas Child shoebox; fill a Shepherd Tote; attend the ZPC Christmas Cantata on 12/17 or David Ackerman's Christmas Concert on 12/10.

Prayer:
As you pray for one another, please pray for the following needs in our church family:

- Prayers of healing for Cheri Fuchs and Sarah Schein.
- We celebrate with Nikki, Josh, and Russell Samuelson (grandparents are Steve and Lane Kessel) in the birth of Mitchell Raymond and with Rachel, Bryan, and Waverly Dyser in the birth of Gideon Ellis.
- Prayers of comfort for Dave Platt in the death of his wife Bev, as well as comfort for their daughters Jody Smith and Maggie Platt.