

Unfinished – Week 3
The Jerusalem Council
Small Groups – Bethany Church Long Beach

Intro:

What was “the takeaway” (the most important point) from Sunday’s sermon and/or the sermon text, in your opinion?

What insight from Sunday’s sermon did you find most helpful, or eye-opening, or troubling (pick any or all of the above)?

Read Acts 15

1. Discuss the context of the passage. What was the question that desperately needed an answer?
2. Who were the Judaizers? Explain their view on the Gospel. Why was it so difficult for them to accept that Gentiles would be saved outside of the Law?
3. Looking at the concerns of the Pharisees in **Mark 2:16, 18, 24 and 7:6**, what other things may these teachers be saying are necessary for the Gentiles to do?
4. If you were one of the Gentiles hearing that these regulations were required, how would you feel about your faith?
5. As a strict Jew, why would these things be important for you?
6. What is the significance of the council’s decision in light of **Acts 1:8**?
7. Reviewing **verses 1-21**, what roles do you see played by experience, theology and practical considerations in the decision-making process of the council?
8. How important is it that we remain faithful to the purity of the Gospel? How is the Gospel easily distorted in our day?
9. In what ways do you add on to the Gospel in your relationship to non-Christians or new believers? How have these add-ons gotten in the way of your faith? How have they affected the faith journey of others?
10. What role do “works” play in our lives as Christians? Do “works” determine salvation or give evidence of salvation? Why is the answer to this question so important?
11. Describe what happens when a person gets saved. Can you share how God has personally changed and transformed you? Like the things that the Gentiles needed to abstain from, what things did you understand you needed to give up when God saved you?
12. Based on the passage, what implications are there for us in terms of Missions?
13. Plan a missional service project with your group. Serve, love, be intentional with someone who needs Jesus.

Pray together as a group