



Background:

As often happens in churches, there arose a difference of opinion. Some of the Jewish believers felt that Gentile believers should follow the rules of the Jewish faith, including the right of circumcision. Because of this division in the church, a Council was convened in Jerusalem and was tasked with making a determination on the matter at hand. The date of the Council was thought to be around AD 49. The testimony of Paul and Barnabas was convincing enough to result in a decision not to lay this burden on the Gentile believers.

Membership in a church indicates you choose to partner with that church in moving the Kingdom of God forward. With membership comes responsibility to live as a Christ-follower, set apart from sin.



Read Acts 15:1-21

In your own words, what were the criteria established for membership by the Jerusalem Council?

How do you feel about the idea of membership within a church? What should be expectations for attaining membership?

Read Acts 15:22-35

Why would the Jerusalem Church need to send men to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas to deliver the news?

How do you think this letter encouraged the believers at Antioch?

Read Romans 6:1-14

How are Christians expected to live?

How are you doing with dying to sin?



Life Change:

What changes have come in your life because of the presence of the Holy Spirit?

What questions do you have on membership at Bay Life?

Are there any parts of these Scriptures that you do not understand?



Getting Out There:

In this passage, we see that the gospel transcends all cultural barriers. Is there a culture or a people group that you have a hard time believing God will redeem for himself or hold personal prejudice against? Maybe it is a group of a different race, nationality, political preference, socio-economic status, sexuality, etc. Begin praying that God would redeem this “people group” along with the Hondurans, Guatemalans, and Ugandans that Bay Life is already working among.

- Teams “Out There” this week: Uganda 1



Family Moments:

Elementary: Read Acts 15:7-10

Is God only willing to save people that are nice? Smart? Pretty? Who is salvation offered if they believe?

*Pray as a family for God to help you reach out to others with whom you may not agree. Ask God to change your heart so that you can love them the way God loves us and be able to share His message with them.

Teen: Read Acts 15:19-20

How can we unintentionally make it difficult for the family we are praying to believe in Jesus?

What can we do this week, to help point them to Jesus?