

Acts 15

The Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

2 Timothy 2:24

Readings this week:

- S Acts 15:1-4
- M Acts 15:5-21
- T Acts 15:22-31
- W Acts 15:32-41
- Th 2 Timothy 2:23-25
- F Titus 3:1-2
- S 1 Peter 3:8 - 16

The disciples had a disagreement about God's message and how it was to be carried out in their lives. Things got quite awkward but the way it was resolved teaches us something about how to deal with problems and arguments in our lives. Look at Acts chapter 15 and talk about what happened. Use the speech boxes to summarise what the people said.



Acts 15:1-2

So

what did they decide to do (v2-3)?

and what happened in Jerusalem (v4-21)?



Look again at the dialogues you summarised on the other page. Make a list of the emotions and feelings each of the groups had at different times during their discussions. When have you ever felt those things? Can you learn from the way the apostles handled their feelings?

Now ask yourselves these questions:

Who made the final decision (verse 22)?

What did the speakers use as the basis for deciding what was the right thing to do?

What should you do if you disagree with someone?

Which of the beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10) would you choose as the one most needed when there is a disagreement? Why?

The apostles' discussion on circumcision was a conflict about whether God's followers are identified physically or spiritually. Which do you think is most important to God?

Digging Deeper

Find out about John Mark and Silas

There were a lot of people who went on Paul's journeys with him. By finding out more about them we discover things that don't appear obvious when we just read through the Acts. It also gives us confidence that the New Testament scriptures are true.

John Mark is sometimes called Marcus

Many people think that he is the one who wrote the second gospel and some people think he was the young man in Mark 14:51

The first time we definitely hear of him is Acts 12:12-17

Do you remember from lesson 123 why Barnabas might have wanted to take John Mark with them on the second journey?

What do we know of Mark later?

- 2 Timothy 4:11
- Colossians 4:10
- How did Peter regard him? 1 Peter 5:13

Silas is sometimes called Sylvanus

Silas travelled around a lot with Paul. Notice, in the coming weeks, whether he is with Paul.

Look at these references to see where he was or what he was doing

- 2 Corinthians 1:19
- 1 Thessalonians 1:1 and 2 Thessalonians 1:1
- 1 Peter 5:12

Pray
that you
may honour
Christ in what you
say and how
you act.