

### The Heart of the Matter

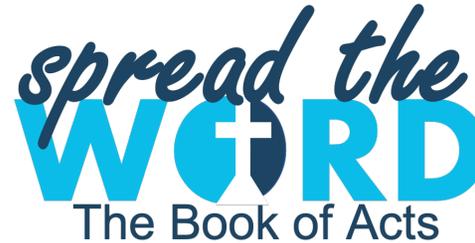
12. What theological debates have you found yourself in most recently? Do you usually jump right in or are you more reserved in your approach?

13. Do you get overly worked up or emotional when someone opposes your viewpoint? What can you do to have a more balanced approach to handling sincere disagreements with others?

14. What have you learned about the way disagreements should be handled among believers through this passage?

15. What can you do to help people find more unity in their relationships?

Praises and Prayer Requests:



## Life Group Study Guide

### Finding One Accord Acts 15:1-35 For the Week of May 19, 2019

#### Getting Started

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
2. What were some of the "extra-biblical" rules your family had to follow while you were growing up?
3. Who is the person in your family who helps everyone get along or helps everyone to "play well together"?

### **Digging Deeper**

4. In verses 1-5 what were some of the things that the Jews were requiring of the Gentiles to be saved? (Mark 2:16, 18, 24; 7:1-5)

5. If you were a Gentile hearing that these Jewish traditions and regulations were required, how would you feel about your new faith? As a strict Jew, why would these rules be important to you?

6. What is the main issue at hand as Paul sees it? (V1-2; Galatians 2:21; 3:5, 10-14)

7. How would you describe Peter's struggle with this issue? (V7-11; 10:28, 34-35; Galatians 2:11-13) How does Paul's teaching in Galatians 2:15-16 show its influence on Peter here?

8. Knowing Paul's Pharisaic background (26:5) and Peter's desire to keep the law (10:14), how would their testimony carry the day with this discussion?

9. Throughout all of this what has led James to change his mind about the issue in verses 13-21? What are the implications of his decision?

10. Why were there still some conditions that remained necessary for the Gentiles to live by? (V20, 29) How does this account communicate that this early church council came to a significant agreement concerning the issue at hand? (V22, 25)

11. Why would a letter and representatives be a good way to communicate the apostles' decision to all the churches in verses 22-29? What were the main points in the letter?