



Devotion Guidelines:

1. Keep it short and interactive
2. Read the Scripture passage together with each person reading a verse
3. Ask questions about each verse
4. Ask each child how they will apply what they have learned from the verses. (Even your young children) You, as a parent, also share what you will apply. Remember that Bible study is for application and transformation not just for information.)
5. Pray together as a family (You and your children can take turns praying)
  - For each other's requests
  - To ask for God's help to apply what you have learned

**Read Together:**

**Acts 15:1-35** *Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."<sup>2</sup> And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, being sent on their way by the church, they were passing through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and were bringing great joy to all the brethren.<sup>4</sup> When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them.<sup>5</sup> But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses."*

*<sup>6</sup> The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter.<sup>7</sup> After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe.<sup>8</sup> And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us;<sup>9</sup> and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.<sup>10</sup> Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?<sup>11</sup> But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are."*

*<sup>12</sup> All the people kept silent, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul as they were relating what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.*

*James's Judgment*

*<sup>13</sup> After they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, "Brethren, listen to me.<sup>14</sup> Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name.<sup>15</sup> With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written,*

*<sup>16</sup> 'After these things I will return,*

*And I will rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen,*

*And I will rebuild its ruins,*

*And I will restore it,*

*<sup>17</sup> So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,*

*And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,'*

*<sup>18</sup> Says the Lord, who makes these things known from long ago.*



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<sup>19</sup> Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, <sup>20</sup> but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. <sup>21</sup> For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”

<sup>22</sup> Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas—Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren, <sup>23</sup> and they sent this letter by them,

“The apostles and the brethren who are elders, to the brethren in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the Gentiles, greetings.

<sup>24</sup> “Since we have heard that some of our number to whom we gave no instruction have disturbed you with their words, unsettling your souls, <sup>25</sup> it seemed good to us, having become of one mind, to select men to send to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,<sup>26</sup> men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>27</sup> “Therefore we have sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will also report the same things by word of mouth. <sup>28</sup> “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials: <sup>29</sup> that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication; if you keep yourselves free from such things, you will do well. Farewell.”

<sup>30</sup> So when they were sent away, they went down to Antioch; and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. <sup>31</sup> When they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. <sup>32</sup> Judas and Silas, also being prophets themselves, encouraged and strengthened the brethren with a lengthy message. <sup>33</sup> After they had spent time there, they were sent away from the brethren in peace to those who had sent them out.<sup>34</sup> [But it seemed good to Silas to remain there.] <sup>35</sup> But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and preaching with many others also, the word of the Lord.

#### **Talk Together:**

1. What happened to the early church based on verse 2? What was their disagreement?
2. Do you think what they are debating on is important? Why?
3. Describe how they resolved the matter. In verse 15 What did they use as basis for making a decision?
4. When they arrived at a resolution, what was the result in verse 31?

#### **Conviction:**

I will have conflicts in my life but I will resolve them lovingly without sacrificing the truth.

#### **Application:**

What can you learn from the example above in resolving conflicts? How can you apply that in your own life?

#### **Pray Together**

Dear Father, whenever we face conflicts, give us the wisdom to resolve them lovingly without sacrificing the truth. Help us to realize what is essential and what is not as we seek reconciliation with other people. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

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