

Assignments on Acts 15

Read Acts 15 then answer these questions:

1. State clearly the issue that disturbed the church in Antioch – 15:1.
2. What did Paul and Barnabas do about the issue – 15:2? (Think: What can we learn about doctrinal differences in the church?)
3. What did the church decide to do about the problem? (Think: As the story proceeds consider why men were sent to Jerusalem. Does this prove the church may have a central church headquarters or governing body?)
4. What information did Paul and Barnabas report – 15:3,4?
5. What view did certain Pharisees defend – 15:5 (cf. v1)? (Think: How important was the law to these people? How does their view differ from 1 Cor. 9:19-23?)

6. **Special Assignment:** List three other *passages* elsewhere that discuss this issue and summarize the teaching of those passages.

7. What was done in Jerusalem about the problem – 15:6? (Think: What can we learn about how to handle problems in the church?)

8. **Special Assignment:** Compare the meeting in Acts 15 to the one in Galatians 2:1-10. Are these the same or different events? Defend your answer.

9. Who spoke first and how did he approach the subject – 15:7? (Think: Where can we read about the events he described?)

10. What did God do for Gentiles and what did this prove – 15:8,9? (Think: What conclusions can we reach from this about proper attitudes between Jews and Gentiles?)

11. How did Peter describe the Old Testament and in what sense is this an accurate description – 15:10,11? (Think: How would you answer someone who claimed that Peter here acted as the first Pope and settled this issue for the church?)

12. Who spoke following Peter's speech, and what did they talk about – 15:12? (Think: Why discuss this subject? What did it have to do with the purpose of the meeting?)

13. Who spoke next? What did he talk about – 15:13-18? (Think: Who was this James?)

14. What does it mean for God to take a people for His name?

15. What passage did he quote and what did it talk about? (Think: What is the tabernacle of David?)

16. Why did he quote this Scripture? How did it relate to the purpose of the meeting?

17. What conclusion did James offer regarding Gentiles keeping the law, and what did he say they should abstain from – 15:19,20?

18. What reason did he give for his view – 15:21? (Think: What did this mean?)

19. Explain the meaning of each item James listed in – 15:20 (cf. vv 28,29):
- things polluted by idols

- fornication

- things strangled

- blood

20. Why did the Old Testament forbid "blood" (check cross-references)?

21. **Special Assignment:** We sometimes say God teaches by direct statements, examples, and “necessary inferences.” Explain how this meeting illustrates these methods.

22. What was decided should be done, and what men were chosen – 15:22?

23. What else did they do – 15:23?

24. How did they describe the issue in 15:24? What does this show about the men who tried to bind circumcision? (Think: From where did the men come? What does this tell about why Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem and why the Jerusalem elders were involved?)

25. **Special Assignment:** Note the expression “to whom we gave no commandment.” What does this show about the “silence of the Scriptures” and our need for divine authority?

26. How did they describe Paul and Barnabas – 15:25,26? (Think: Why give this description?)

27. Why did they send both a letter and some men with the message – 15:27?

28. Whose authority was behind the decision – 15:28?

29. **Define** “necessary,” and list the necessary things – 15:28,29.

30. What did they mean by saying they would lay “no greater burden” on them – 15:28?

31. **Special Assignment:** State in your own words the conclusion reached about the issue of circumcision and the keeping of the Old Law.

32. What did the men do when they arrived at Antioch, and how did the people react – 15:30,31? (Think: Why would they react in this way?)

33. What did Judas and Silas do then – 15:32? (Think: Who were these men?)

34. What did the church say the men could do then – 15:33?

35. What work occupied Paul and Barnabas after that – 15:34,35?

36. What did Paul suggest they do in 15:36? (Think: Why would this work be needed?)

37. Whom did Barnabas want to take – 15:37?

38. What did Paul think about this and why – 15:38 (where can we read about this event)?

39. How did the situation develop, and how was it resolved – 15:39?

40. How did Paul later view Mark (see cross references)? (Think: Did Paul or Barnabas sin here? What lessons can we learn about solving conflict between brethren?)

41. Whom did Paul take with him, and where did they go – 15:40,41 (see *map*)?