

The Book of Acts

LESSON FIFTEEN

*Acts 15:1-41**

Day 1	Acts 15:1-4
Day 2	Acts 15:5-11
Day 3	Acts 15:12-15, 19-21
Day 4	Acts 15:22-23, 30-35
Day 5	Acts 15:36-41

**Note: Because of the length of the passage, some verses have been omitted -- please read them on your own.*

LESSON FIFTEEN

1 Look in His Word

Feel free to underline, circle or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

Acts 15:1-4

¹Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.”

²This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

³The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the brothers very glad.

⁴When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

2 List the Facts

What does the passage say? Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious, outstanding facts. Be literal as you answer.

Example:

15:1 Men came from Judea to Antioch, teaching “Unless you are circumcised, you cannot be saved.”

LESSON FIFTEEN

3 Learn from the Lessons

What does the passage mean? What lessons can be learned from these facts? Be spiritual as you answer.

Example:

15:1 Some people try to add their church traditions to the Gospel.

4 Listen to His Voice

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from step 3 in the form of a question. Be personal as you answer.

Example:

15:1 What tradition has my church added to the Gospel?

LESSON FIFTEEN

1 Look in His Word

2 List the Facts

Acts 15:5-11

⁵Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses.”

⁶The apostles and elders met to consider this question.

⁷After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.

⁸God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.

⁹He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.

¹⁰Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear?

¹¹No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

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3

Learn from the Lessons

4

Listen to His Voice

LESSON FIFTEEN

1 Look in His Word

2 List the Facts

Acts 15:12-15, 19-21

¹²The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

¹³When they finished, James spoke up:
“Brothers, listen to me.

¹⁴Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself.

¹⁵The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

¹⁹“It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

²⁰Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.

²¹For Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

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Learn from the Lessons

4

Listen to His Voice

LESSON FIFTEEN

1 Look in His Word

2 List the Facts

Acts 15:22-23, 30-35

²²Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, two men who were leaders among the brothers.

²³With them they sent the following letter: The apostles and elders, your brothers, To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: Greetings.

³⁰The men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter.

³¹The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message.

³²Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the brothers.

³³After spending some time there, they were sent off by the brothers with the blessing of peace to return to those who had sent them.

³⁵But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord.

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3 Learn from the Lessons

4 Listen to His Voice

LESSON FIFTEEN

1 Look in His Word

2 List the Facts

Acts 15:36-41

³⁶Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.”

³⁷Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them,

³⁸but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.

³⁹They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus,

⁴⁰but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

⁴¹He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

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3 Learn from the Lessons

4 Listen to His Voice

5 Live in Response

How will you respond? Pinpoint what God is saying to you from this passage. Write down today's date and what you will do now about what He has said.

NOTES