

Family Discipleship Resource

May 17-23

(Acts 15:13-35)



G – Gather for Prayer

Father,

Lord, help me to know, apply, and use your truth. Bless our church to that end as well.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

R – Read the Text (Acts 15:13-35)

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

16 '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, 17 So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,' 18 Says the Lord, who makes these things known from long ago.

19 Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, 20 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. 21 For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since [g]he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath."

22 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, 23 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. 24 "Since we have heard that some of our number to whom we gave no instruction have disturbed you with their words, unsettling your souls, 25 it seemed good to us, having become of one mind, to select men to send to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, 26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 "Therefore we have sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will also report the same things by word of mouth. 28 "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials: 29 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."

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

O – Observe what God has said

How should the Bible prove to be a primary source for reference in the Christian life?

What is the difference between knowing the Word and applying the Word?

What value does writing/recording things have today? How might we encourage this practice?

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W – Work on Application

Are you looking to God's Word first and foremost for understanding? Or are you looking to another authority for insight on pertinent matters?

Perhaps your application is to return to the Word—reading it, memorizing it, studying it, etc.—as your primary source of inspiration. Choose this week to spend more time with it than you do scrolling on your favorite news site or influencer's youtube channel.

Are you doing anything with the information it shares by applying the word to your life? Do you ask the "so what?" question after reading it and understanding what it says?

Perhaps your application is to take a step of obedience today that is in keeping with what God's word commands—to do something that you know God's Word is telling you to do or to NOT do something that God's Word is prohibiting.

Are you engaging multiple witnesses—looking for guidance from trusted God-fearing Bible-believing brothers and sisters who are, like you, trying to apply God's Word rightly?

Perhaps your application today is to join a connect group to that end so that you can be sharpened by others around you and held accountable to what God has said.

What might you need to do to hold fast to what you are learning?

Perhaps your application today is to take up journaling so that there is a record of what God's Word says and what you are doing with it.

How are you pursuing discipleship in your life and in your family's life today?

Perhaps your application today ought to be taking advantage of what this church offers for such and to utilize those resources with others in a connect group and/or in the context of our home.

Family Weekly Memory Verse: *"When they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement."*-Acts 15:31