

Family Discipleship Resource

May 24-30

(Acts 15:36-41)



G – Gather for Prayer

Father,

Lord, grant me the grace to serve alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ. Give me your wisdom to know how to rightly deal with conflict.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

R – Read the Text (Acts 15:16-41)

³⁶After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." ³⁷Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. ³⁸But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. ⁴⁰But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

O – Observe what God has said

Who were the people involved in this episode? What kind of men were these?

Why do you think these two disagreed about taking John Mark?

What solution do these two men reach? What opportunities does this create?

W – Work on Application

The application to be drawn here is fairly direct. When or if you find yourself at odds with a brother/sister in the faith over something for which there is no clear/biblical/absolute resolution, give space so that unity can be preserved and the mission can progress. This may look like not serving on the same team or taking a break for a season from participating in the same effort. Making room can be the first step toward reconciliation and restoration—the likes of which we see later in the life of Paul and John Mark who ultimately come back together.

When might it be appropriate to be create space between you and someone else? Why is this important for church health?

Family Weekly Memory Verse: *"And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches."*- Acts 15:41