

## *“Journeys With Paul”*

### *Lesson Four: Working Through Controversy in the Church*

Read Acts 15

#### Understanding the Text

1. What controversy arises in Antioch after Paul and Barnabas return from the first missionary journey?
2. Verse two says Paul and Barnabas had “great dissension and debate” (New American Standard Translation) with these men. What do the words dissension and debate mean?
3. Why do you think some make the argument that it is necessary to circumcise the Gentiles and have them observe the Law of Moses?
4. What encouraging things can we learn from verses 3-6?
5. What arguments does Peter make in defense of the Gentiles?
6. What arguments do Paul and Barnabas make in defense of the Gentiles?
7. What arguments does James make in defense of the Gentiles?
8. What does the council at Jerusalem decide to do?
9. The council at Jerusalem thinks the Gentiles need some “burden” put on them. Explain the requirements they gave the Gentiles.

10. Verse 31 says the Gentiles in Antioch “rejoiced because of the encouragement” in the letter from Jerusalem. What is encouraging about the letter in Jerusalem?

### Applying the Text

- Why do you think the Holy Spirit, working through Luke, recorded these events in between the first and second missionary journeys?
- What attitudes are displayed in Acts 15 that we should avoid and what other passages in the Bible teach us about these bad attitudes?
- What attitudes are displayed in Acts 15 that we should follow and what other passages in the Bible teach us about these good attitudes?
- What can we learn about students of the gospel? What’s the perspective of the people receiving Paul’s message?
- What can we learn about teachers of the gospel? What’s the perspective of Paul and his fellow teachers?