

KIDTOWN GUIDE

1st-5th Grades

DATE: 5/2/21

SCRIPTURE: Acts 15

LESSON: The Jerusalem Council



INTRO

Parents say to your kid(s) - Last week we talked about a letter Paul sent to church leaders to remind them to lead by example. This week we are going to learn about a tough question some church leaders had to answer!

Trivia Challenge! - Kids love to learn in concrete ways. This activity is a simple object lesson to help your kids interact with the Bible story they're about to learn.

Sit on the floor or around a table and have kids use their hands as a "buzzer." They can "buzz" in to answer each question. If a question is too hard, they can choose an older, wiser audience member to help them out!

1) Which four books of the bible tell about Jesus' life? *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*

2) Where did Moses lead the Israelites out of? *Egypt*

3) What was Matthew's job before he followed Jesus? *A tax collector*

4) How many cubits long was the ark that Noah built? *300 cubits*

(Keep going with your own questions if you'd like!)

Say- Some of those questions you knew the answers to, but some of them you might have needed a little help on. When you need help, who can you ask? Your parents, teachers, experts, etc. Well, today we're going to hear about a time when Paul and Barnabas had a tough question, so they asked the church leaders for some help figuring out the answer.



LESSON - THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL

Watch the Gospel Project Bible video: [The Jerusalem Council](#)

Story Point #1: (Kids repeat!)

The church leaders met together to answer a tough question. (Kids repeat!)

In the early church, many Jewish Pharisees felt that the Gentiles could not be saved by Jesus because they did not follow the old laws that God gave to Moses and his people. Paul and Barnabas disagreed and met with the other leaders and elders of the church in Jerusalem to come to a decision. Peter spoke about God's command to him to spread the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles, because God viewed the Jews and Gentiles all the same, Paul and Barnabas spoke about all the wonders and blessings they have seen God give the Gentiles, and James spoke about the prophecy of the Gentiles being saved.

Story Point #2: (Kids repeat!)

Following rules is not what saves us (Kids repeat!)

They agreed that we are saved through the Grace and love of Jesus, not by following rules. Therefore, they did not require the Gentiles to follow all the old rules, but did send them letters to the church of Antioch with instructions on how to live to glorify and honor God and a list of things they should not do now that they were believers.

Christ Connection! (Kids repeat!)

Following Jesus saves us. (kids repeat)

Faith in Jesus alone is all we need to be saved thanks to His death and resurrection. God views all of his people the same, and God does not require us to earn or work for His grace. Trying to be good doesn't save us, it is recognizing that we need to turn away from sin and follow Jesus as our Savior and trusting in Him saves us from the punishment of sin. When we believe in Him, the Holy Spirit can lead us to obey and follow God's commands.



RESPONSE

Sing: [In No One Else](#) (Key Passage Song)
[Psalm 40:5](#)

Pray: Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of grace through Jesus. We pray that we can know that Jesus alone is why we are saved. Not because of what we do or how good we think we are. I pray that we can lead others to accept Jesus in their hearts and accept His gift of salvation. We need you and we love you, amen.

Discuss:

- What stood out to you from this story? *Let kids answer. Non-spiritual answers are okay--we want them to interact with Scripture, not just regurgitate facts.*
- *Who met in Jerusalem to decide if new believers had to fully obey the Old Testament law? The apostles and elders (Acts 15:6)*
- *Who explained that Gentiles received the Holy Spirit? Peter (Acts 15:8)*
- *How are we saved from sin? By grace through faith (Acts 15:9-11)*
- *Why can't we be saved by obedience to the Law? Guide the kids to discuss the ways our hearts are dead in sin. We cannot obey God perfectly because our hearts lead us astray. We needed Jesus to come and obey on our behalf, die in our place, and rise again to defeat death.*
- *Why is it important to obey God if obedience doesn't save us? Remind kids that obedience is a sign of our love for God. Help them see that God saves us so that we are able to obey, not so that we can continue to disobey. When we have faith, the Holy Spirit changes us so that we want to obey God.*
- Does anyone have any questions? Was anything about this lesson confusing?
 - *Allow time for questions and if you don't know the answers, that's okay. Affirm their question and let them know that you don't know but will try to find out.*
 - *If you have any questions you are really stumped on, feel free to email us at kidtown@midtowncolumbia.com.*



BONUS ACTIVITIES

Coloring Sheet - [Printable Coloring Sheet](#)

Parent Share - Do you ever act/think like following rules is what saves you?

Silent Ball - The object of this game is to be the last person still in. Sit in a circle and throw a ball or small stuffed animal to each other. There are only three rules:

- 1) If you do a bad throw, you're out.
- 2) If you miss a catch, you're out.
- 3) If you talk AT ALL, you're out. So once the game starts, any communication has to be non-verbal.