

2024 - Family Devo

July 14 - a

READ: Acts 15:13-29

Main Idea: In the meeting of apostles and Jerusalem church elders, James now speaks about the topic of Gentiles being saved without becoming Jews. He reminds everyone that scripture has prophesied that God's plan all along was to save Gentiles as well as Jews through Jesus. So the group realizes that God's will is in fact different than the men who came to Paul and Barnabas earlier and tried to require circumcision. They decide to send a letter back with Paul and Barnabas to the Gentile converts in Antioch. They also send Judas (aka Barsabbas) and Silas to verify the letter. What a great example of a church problem being solved by seeking God's will.

DISCUSS

Children: Do you remember the prophets in the Old Testament? They would often talk about things to come. In these verses in Acts they are quoting from a prophet in the Old Testament. It specifically states that the Gentiles would bear his name. So if the prophets knew, why is it so hard for the people now to understand?

Teen: Where was the answer to the problem found? Is it still relevant and full of answers today?

Adult: We all know that it's best to hear a message directly from the person sending it. The apostles apparently didn't feel they could travel, but they also wanted the Christians of Antioch to hear from someone who did have their authority to speak. Why do you think the apostles thought it important to not only send the letter with Barnabas and Paul but to send it with representatives who did have the apostles' authority? How do you think the believers reacted to the 'troublemaker' Christians who didn't have that right? How would we treat them today?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Psalm 96:2 (ESV)
Sing to the LORD,
bless his name; tell of
his salvation from day
to day.



2024 - Family Devo

July 14 - b

READ: Acts 15:36-41

Main Idea: Paul wants to go back through the cities that he and Barnabas had preached in before and check on the Christians there. Barnabas agreed, but he wanted to take John Mark with them. Paul did not think that would be good, since he had gone with them before, but quit part way through. When they couldn't come to an agreement, their solution was to both go, but to go separately. Barnabas would go and take John Mark with him, and Paul would take Silas with him. Notice that Paul and Barnabas don't become enemies or rivals because of this. But they did have to find a solution to a tricky problem.

DISCUSS

Children: If you have a brother or sister, do you always agree on everything? Do you have a best friend? Or more than one friend? What happens if you disagree on something? Do you decide you can't be friends anymore! You certainly can't do that with family. You have to find a way to make everyone feel included. It's like sharing, just not with toys.

Teen: Are there disagreements even among God's people? Are there Godly solutions to those disagreements?

Adult: Another dispute, this time between the two missionaries. And apparently a strong disagreement. Because of it, there were now two missionary teams instead of one. Would you call this a good thing? For someone going through the argument, it probably did not feel positive, but did God use it for the good of His kingdom? Do you know of any further interactions between Paul and John Mark? If so, was it good or bad? (hint: Col 4:10 & 2 Tim 4:11)

PRAY

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