

The Jerusalem Council

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Acts 15

STORY POINT:

Jesus is all we need to be saved from sin.

BIBLE VERSE:

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the Bible about? The Bible is about God's plan to save people through Jesus.

LEADER Bible Study

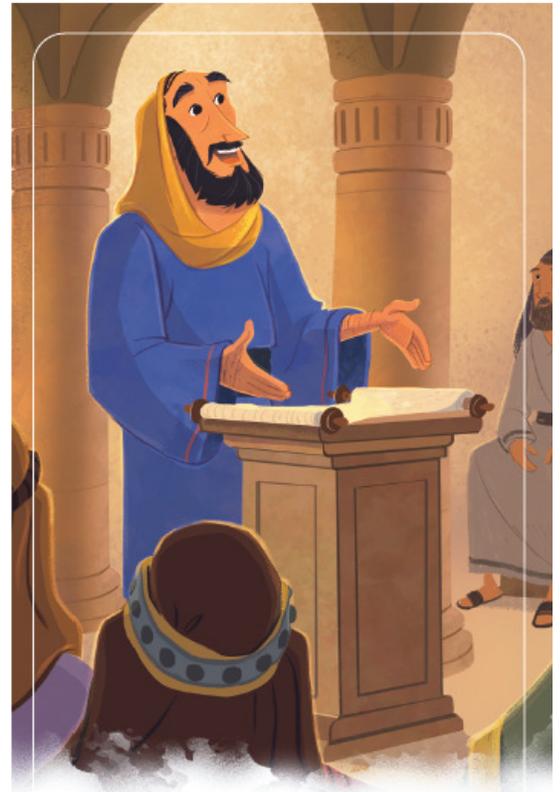
The church in Antioch praised God for His grace to Paul on his first missionary journey. Though Paul and Barnabas were strongly opposed in some places, many people heard the gospel and believed. Paul and Barnabas took the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles. But a problem arose when some Christians began saying that the new followers of Jesus—the Gentile believers—needed to obey the Law of Moses in order to be right with God.

Paul and Barnabas debated this issue with other church leaders in Jerusalem. They met together to answer a tough question: Can a person be saved by faith alone or was something more needed? When Paul addressed the council, he insisted that God saves Gentiles the same way He saves Jews: through the grace of the Lord Jesus.

Paul testified to the things God had done among the Gentiles. God had given Gentiles the Holy Spirit. James cited the prophets Amos and Isaiah in support. The group agreed that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, He alone is all we need to be saved. They also agreed that they should not make salvation more difficult for Gentiles by adding unnecessary rules.

The church chose two men—Judas and Silas—to go with Paul and Barnabas to the church at Antioch. They wrote a letter for the Gentile believers there, encouraging them and giving them instructions for how to live as followers of Christ.

The message for the Gentile believers was important: Whether Jew or Gentile, salvation comes only through faith in Christ. No one is saved by the law but by grace alone. Emphasize to the preschoolers you teach that, while the Bible does give us plenty of instruction for how to live, sinners are made right with God only by the grace of Jesus. Salvation is a gift. To receive this gift, Jesus is all we need.



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Acts 15

10:45 Service

INTRODUCE THE STORY

Youth Directed

Build a church

Blocks (found in the classroom)
people figures

Provide blocks for the children to stack. Help the children put the people figures inside and talk about people going to church.

Say • God's church was growing. People who were Jews and people who were not Jews trusted in Jesus. Anyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved. **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD.**

EXPERIENCE THE STORY

Pull out the bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

You may show the bible story picture and read below.

God was building His church with many different peoples. Some people who loved Jesus thought you had to follow the old Jewish laws of how to act in order to have life with God. Paul and Barnabas went to the church in Jerusalem. They told the church about the Gentiles, the non-Jews, who had believed the good news about Jesus. God had even given the Gentiles the Holy Spirit! Paul said, "Even our people could not obey God's laws. Only Jesus rescues people. Anyone who loves and trusts Jesus will be saved. This was God's plan from the beginning." The church in Jerusalem wrote letters to tell the Gentiles that all they needed to do was to trust in Jesus.

Christ connection: Jesus is all we need to have life with God forever.

Make a scroll

Paper with Christ connection printed on it
Crayons (found in metal Sunday school cabinet)
Heart sticker

Give each child a paper with the Christ Connection on it. Provide crayons for the children to decorate their paper. Roll the paper into a scroll shape and seal it with a heart sticker. Talk about the Bible story.

Say • Some people were confused about the good news. The church in Jerusalem wrote scrolls to tell people the truth: Anyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved. **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD.**

REVIEW THE STORY

BIG PICTURE REVIEW

Show the Bible story picture as you repeat these **gospel gems**. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

- ❖ Some people were confused about the good news.
- ❖ Paul said that only Jesus saves people.
- ❖ Anyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved.

What is the Bible about? The Bible is about God’s plan to save people through Jesus.

Pray

God, thank You for our church leaders who help us remember what is true. Thank You that Jesus is all we need to be saved from sin. Thank You that anyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved. Help us tell others this good news. Amen.

Play

Play rhythm instruments

Shakers

Provide shakers for children to play as you sing “The Good News of Christ” and “The B-I-B-L-E.” After a minute, still the instruments and tell the Bible story.

Say • Some people were confused about the good news. They thought they needed to follow Jesus and keep all of the rules for Jews too. Paul said that only Jesus saves people. **THE BIBLE IS GOD’S WORD.**