

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

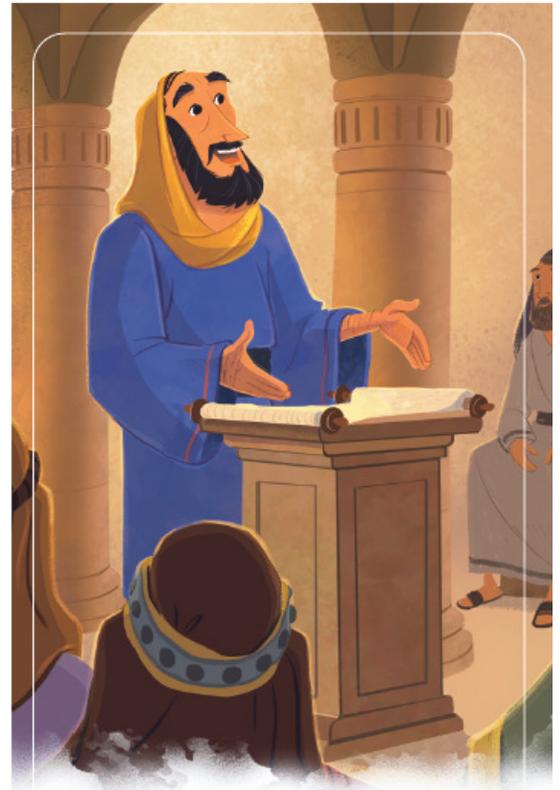
The church in Antioch praised God for His grace to Paul on his first missionary journey. Though Paul and Barnabas were strongly opposed in some places, many people heard the gospel and believed. Paul and Barnabas took the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles. But a problem arose when some Christians began 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.



The Jerusalem Council

Acts 15

9:00 Service

INTRODUCE THE STORY

Youth Directed

Play a follow the rules game

gift bags, 2
small pieces of paper

Invite the children to take turns pulling a paper out of each bag. Guide them to “follow the rules” and move to that place and back in the way described.

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.

Build church buildings

“Places of Worship” printable
blocks

Set out the “Places of Worship” cards. Invite the children to sort the pictures into places of worship from today and Bible times. Comment that in today’s Bible story, churches were just beginning.

Set out a variety of blocks. Encourage children to work together to build a church building. Pray, thanking God for your church and other Bible-believing churches in your area.

Say • God’s church was growing. God was adding both Jewish and Gentile believers to His church. Churches were meeting together in many different places. The church leaders came together in the city of Jerusalem to talk about what was true. **Jesus is all we need to be saved from sin.** That was true then, and it is still true today. God’s church is still growing, and churches meet together in all kinds of different places all around the world.

REVIEW THE STORY

BIG PICTURE REVIEW

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

- What are people who are not Jews called? (*Gentiles*)
- What were some people saying the Gentile believers needed to do? (*follow the same rules as the Jews*)
- How are Jesus and Gentiles saved? (*by God's grace – anyone who loves and trusts in Jesus*)

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

Practice the 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

Say • People in the church began to say that the Gentiles could only be saved if they followed the same rules as the Jews. Our bible verse reminds us that we are saved when we believe in Jesus. Only Jesus can save us because He never sinned and He died for us. Anyone who believes in Him will be saved.

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

Music flash drive

Provide shakers for children to play as you sing “The Good News of Christ” and “The B-I-B-L-E.” or any other song from this unit. 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.**