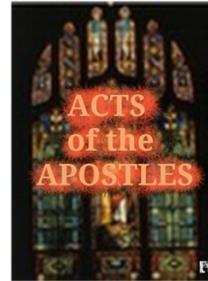
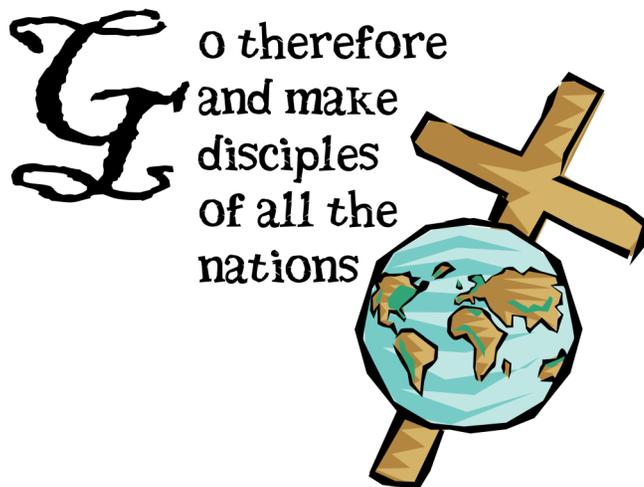


Ways to do the church-wide Acts Bible Study

1. Use this insert by yourself or with a partner.
 - Commit to spending 1 hour each week
 - Consider partnering with someone to whom you are not related
2. Form a small group to discuss the questions together
3. Come to the retreat on Saturday, January 30 from 9-3 and watch the Bible on video and talk about it with others. Lunch included.
4. Use the online Bible Study at www.StPetersSaints.com
 - Find the Practicing our Faith page and then click on Reading the Bible

Pathways for Faith
www.StPetersSaints.com



DISCOVERING OUR MISSION

CHURCH-WIDE STUDY OF THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Insert #8

Council at Jerusalem, Conflict in the inner circle, Paul's second Missionary Journey

As more and more Gentiles were coming to faith in Jesus, there was disagreement about whether or not they had to be circumcised as Jews before qualifying for salvation. Since Jesus had not given specific instructions about this, they had to deliberate to discern the will of the Holy Spirit. All the apostles and church leaders gathered together, and after much discussion, it was finally decided that only four things are required of every Christian: to abstain from eating blood, from eating the meat of strangled animals, from eating food offered to idols, and from sexual immorality. Paul and Barnabas were sent to Antioch, along with others, to communicate the Council's action and encourage the church there.

From there, Paul and Silas went to Asia Minor, and Barnabas and John Mark went to Cyprus to spread the Gospel. We see the Good News travel even farther west than before, as Paul heads to Macedonia (Greece).

- When conflict arises, speak clearly and directly, seek direction from Scripture, accept the decisions of wise and godly leaders
- Keep the main thing the main thing — worship God and follow Jesus as Lord
- Keep spreading the message
- Be open to God's surprises

Week 8
STUDY GUIDE

Read: Acts chapters 15-16

For Reflection:

1. What squelched Paul and Barnabas' joy in the Gentile conversion?
2. Why was the disagreement over circumcision such a big deal?
3. What did the church in Antioch decide to do about the conflict?
3. What happened in Jerusalem?
4. What evidence was put forward in defense of the Gentile mission?
5. What could the Pharisees go away feeling good about?
6. What was God's bigger plan when their plans for Asia were foiled?
7. Who joined Paul in Troas? (cf. 16:8 and 10)
8. How did Lydia come to faith?
9. How does God's work sometimes result in things people don't like?
10. And on the other hand, how does God use bad situations as opportunities for salvation?
11. Why didn't Paul just leave Philippi without a fuss?

Go Deeper:

1. What can we learn about resolving conflict in our churches?
2. Who are the apostles and elders nowadays?
3. What is important about reporting and celebrating what God is doing in the lives of people who hear the Gospel?
4. What difference might it make for us to sing and pray when we are facing difficulties?
5. What does this Word suggest for the life of St. Peter's

For Further Study go to www.StPetersSaints.com

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Acts Chapters 15-16

Write your responses to the following questions and tear off this page and leave it in the Response Box at church, OR leave them on the feedback page of the Pathways for Faith website, OR e-mail them to Chris Kann qcic5131@comcast.net.

1. What is God doing in these two chapters?
2. What are people doing in these two chapters? (sometimes at odds with God)
3. What lessons are here for the church in that day?
4. What lessons are here for the church today?
5. What is this telling us about a possible vision purpose for our ministry?