

SOMETHING NEW • A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF

ACTS

THE GOSPEL IS BETTER THAN LEGALISM DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Commentary on Acts 15. <https://www.preceptaustin.org/acts-15-commentary>

Read Acts 15:1-19

START THINKING. Ask this question to get your LifeGroup thinking.

- Have you ever found yourself in a situation or a relationship where you didn't know where you stood with another person or other people? What was the situation and how did it make you feel?
- Imagine if you were a new Christian believing that you have been saved and someone came along and told you that you weren't and that you had to do something else before it was legitimate. How would you feel and respond?

START TALKING. Ask these questions to get your LifeGroup talking.

- What observations about this story strike you as important or raise question or curiosity?
- While the issue of circumcision may not be pressing for us in 2022, Matt said that many of us still operate with a religious mindset, which says, "I obey; therefore, I'm accepted by God." He contrasted that mind set with a gospel mindset, which says, "I'm already accepted; therefore, I will obey."

- Why are we so prone to slip into a religious mindset?
- What are practices that we can adopt to nurture a gospel mindset rather than a religious mindset?
- The passage ends with James deciding about the circumcision dispute. One of the main thrusts of his decision was v19, "We should not make it difficult for people turning to God." What are ways that we can unintentionally make it difficult for people who are turning to God?

Even though we shouldn't make it difficult for people turning to God, discipleship is a high bar. Jesus says you must be willing to die if you are going to follow him. How does James's statement in Acts 15:19 line up or conflict with Jesus' call to discipleship in Matthew 16:24?

START SHARING. *Ask this question to get your LifeGroup sharing.*

- In light of Sunday's sermon and your group's discussion, in what ways do you sense God stirring something in you or putting something on your heart to which you should respond?

START PRAYING.

Pray together as a group.