

Making the Bible Make Sense
Acts 15
Capstone Scripture: Isaiah 40:8 NLT

To make the bible make sense, we must P.R.A.Y.

P- Pray. Pray for understanding and clarity

R- Read and Reread. Read the content. Read for context. Read to get understanding.

A- Ask and Apply. Ask who, what, when, where, why, and how? Application- then, now, and the future.

Y- You. Look for you, and God, Jesus, and/or the Holy Spirit. How does this apply to you and your life?

Versus 1-12

1. What city is Paul and Barnabas in?
2. Who are these “certain men”?
3. Who are Judaizers?
4. What is being taught as a requirement for salvation? Is this true today? (support with scripture)
5. How did Paul and Barnabas respond to what was being taught?
6. How did they settle the dispute?
7. Where did Paul and Barnabas go? Where did they stop along the way? What did they do there?
8. What happened when Paul and Barnabas arrived in Jerusalem? (It was two things)
9. What is the “sect of the Pharisees,” and what did they do?
10. Why were the apostle and the elders called to meet together?
11. How did the meeting go initially? Who stood up to speak on their behalf, and why him?
12. What did Peter say?
13. What is a yoke? What is the “yoke” being referred to in Acts 15:10?

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14. No one could bear this “yoke,” so what is its purpose?
15. Let’s talk laws and tradition... (Biblical Laws- Ceremonial, Civil, and Moral; Traditions- purpose, value, etc...)
16. What is grace? Salvation by grace? (support with scripture)
17. What happened after Peter spoke?

Life application for you:

Bible Study Questions on Acts 15: 30-41

1. How does the Antioch church's reaction to the letter ("they rejoiced because of its encouragement," v.30-31) challenge the way we sometimes respond to doctrinal clarity or correction?
2. In verses 32-35, Judas, Silas, Paul, and Barnabas all "encourage and strengthen" the believers with the word. What does this teach us about the relationship between good theology and emotional/relational health in a church?
3. Paul wants to revisit the churches "to see how they are" (v.36). What does this reveal about his understanding of mission and discipleship, and how does that confront "event based" ministry today?
4. Barnabas wants to take John Mark; Paul refuses because Mark had withdrawn earlier (v.37-38). Which side do you instinctively sympathize with and what does that reaction reveal about your own ministry instincts?
5. The "sharp disagreement" (paroxysmos – **fa-rock-sis-moss**), (in English paroxysm – **pair-uhk-siz-um**) in verse 39 shows a very human conflict between two spiritual leaders. How does this passage shape your expectations about conflict in a healthy church?
6. Paul and Barnabas separate, but the result is two mission teams instead of one (v.39-41). How can we hold together both the sadness of division and the hope of God's sovereign use of it?
7. Later in the New Testament, Paul speaks positively about Mark again (e.g., "he is useful to me for ministry"). How does that future reconciliation inform the way we view the split in Acts 15?
8. How might the story of John Mark, failing once, then being reinvested in by Barnabas, encourage believers who feel disqualified by past mistakes in ministry or faithfulness?
9. Looking at verses 30-35 (joy and encouragement) and 36-41 (conflict and separation), what does this passage teach us about the emotional complexity of real Christian community?