

Understand your Bible

Suggested notes

Acts 15

What we will see in this chapter:

- How a problem in the early church was solved
- A disagreement between Paul and Barnabas

1 Read the chapter

2 Questions to help us in our understanding of this chapter. Look at the chapter verses in your Bible and use the questions to help you make your notes. The map in section 4 shows you where Paul went.

Chapter verses	Questions (to help with your notes)	Suggested notes
1 to 5	1. Why did Paul and Barnabas go up to Jerusalem?	Paul and Barnabas visited Jerusalem to resolve a dispute over whether Gentile believers needed to be circumcised.
6 to 11	2. What did Peter tell the elders?	He told the elders that God chose him to preach the Good News to other nations and showed no distinction between Jews and Gentiles by giving the Holy Spirit to both.
12 to 21 <i>Text note v 16 and 17: James quotes Amos 9 v 11 and 12.</i>	3. What did James then say?	He said that Peter's report showed that salvation was for all people. The Gentiles needed to keep away from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ pollution of idols ➤ sexual immorality ➤ anything strangled ➤ blood
22 to 29	4. What was agreed and done?	The apostles said that Gentiles need not be circumcised. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to them. This recommended just four points that James proposed.
30 to 34	5. How did the believers in Antioch react to the decision?	They rejoiced over the encouragement.
35 to 41	6. What did Paul and Barnabas do next?	They discussed their plans for visiting the churches, but had a disagreement about who to take with them. Barnabas took Mark with him to Cyprus. Paul chose Silas and went through Syria and Cilicia.

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3 Related theme from v 6 to 9: *Salvation is for all who respond.*

Have a look at these related verses and see this theme running through the Bible. Make a note of the main point(s) in the verse(s).

Verse(s)	Main point(s)
Psalms 86 v 5, 145 v 18	God is ready to forgive all who call on him.
Mark 3 v 35	Jesus says that anyone can be regarded as part of his family.
John 3 v 16	Anyone who believes in Jesus can have eternal life.
Acts 2 v 21, 10 v 43	Everyone can call on the name of the Lord and have their sins forgiven.
Romans 10 v 12 and 13	Both Jews and Greeks (non-Jews) can be saved.

4 Map of Paul's second journey

