

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **May 30, 2021** Family Theme | **Defend the Faith** Study Text | **Acts 15:1-35**

Objective: Help your children understand that the early church leaders defended the gospel of salvation by faith in Christ alone. We stand for that truth in our day against those who teach any other “gospel.”

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson is set about 20 years after the resurrection of Jesus as the early church continued to grow and expand into the Gentile world.

Bible Basics: Review the names and order of the first eight books of the Old Testament and the first eight books of the New Testament this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Acts 15:1-35

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand there are false teachers who proclaim a message different from the biblical gospel message. We seek to help people understand what the Bible really teaches and defend the biblical gospel.



Key Truth: Believers Defend Salvation by Faith in Christ Alone (Acts 15:1-5)

Some Jewish believers came to Antioch teaching that Gentiles could not be saved if they were not circumcised and submitting to the Law of Moses. Paul and Barnabas, however, argued passionately that salvation was by grace through faith alone. The church, recognizing the need to resolve this matter, sent Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to discuss the issue with the apostles and elders there.



Key Truth: God's Work and God's Word Affirm Salvation by Faith in Christ Alone (Acts 15:6-21)

Peter recounted the story of Cornelius (Acts 10), clarifying the evangelism of the Gentiles was the work of God. Then Paul and Barnabas told of the signs and wonders God had done through them for the Gentiles. Such signs and wonders served to authenticate the message of God to a Gentile audience. James, the half-brother of Jesus and a prominent leader in the early church, affirmed the message and experience of Peter, and then quoted Scripture that affirmed the Gentiles would be called by God's name. James' judgment was that they should not make it difficult for the Gentiles to come to God by requiring circumcision.



Key Truth: We Seek Unity With All Who Trust in Christ Alone for Salvation (Acts 15:22-35)

The apostles sent a letter and representatives back to Antioch to encourage the new Gentile Christians and to correct the false teachers. The letter made it clear that Gentiles did not have to be circumcised and keep the Law to be saved. It did instruct the Gentiles to strive for unity with others of Jewish background by abstaining from practices that would be offensive and cause unnecessary problems. The church would have to learn to hold to the essentials of the faith, but also to grant liberty in matters of culture, tradition, and preference.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- What does it mean to defend the faith?
- What are examples of false teaching we must defend against?
- Why is it so important to defend the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith alone?
- What kinds of requirements and good works do some people say are necessary for salvation today?
- **For Elementary:** How would you explain to someone that salvation comes only by grace through faith in Christ?
- **For Elementary:** What were the believers at the church in Antioch disagreeing about?
- **For Elementary:** Why is it important to know what God's Word says to help you defend your faith?

Everyday Extras

See how long you can toss a balloon back and forth with other family members without allowing it to touch down. Now pretend your balloon is made of something very valuable. Will you try even harder? The gospel is very valuable and important. We want to do everything we can to protect it. We want to share it with others, but we don't want anyone to add to or take away from its important message. We need to defend it from those who want to destroy it. This may take courage; it will take learning what is true in the Bible and paying attention when some people want to disagree with it. But we will be sure to hold to the truth of the gospel.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child reviewed the calling of Jesus' disciples. Jesus still calls us to be His disciples today. He wants us to follow Him by learning about Him, obeying Him, and telling others about Him. **I Can Follow Jesus.**