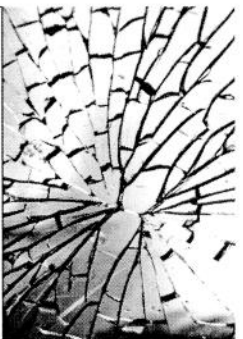


GOD'S STORY™ OUR STORY

May 14, 2017



**Council at
Jerusalem**

Devotion: Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone or with others; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

God of great mission,

You have set before us a great task, O God: keeping sight of the things which matter. Steer us away from our preoccupation with issues that do not bear on our eternal salvation, focusing instead on all who still long to hear your word of grace. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Reflect: Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

"Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."
Acts 15:10-11

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

The early leaders of the faithful had an ever-growing task on their hands: to keep adding to the numbers of converted while trying to reconcile the old customs with the new message. Opinions are strong, and the young church faces one among many threats of division.

Consider: Consider this theme for the week's text.

There are many things that can divide a church today, yet many more that can unite us.

Read: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday: *Council at Jerusalem*, Acts 15:1-18

Monday: *The Conversion of Lydia*, Acts 16:11-15

Tuesday: *Paul and Silas in Prison*, Acts 16:16-40

Wednesday: *Paul Sails for Rome*, Acts 27:1-12

Thursday: *The Storm at Sea*, Acts 27:13-38

Friday: *The Shipwreck*, Acts 27:39-28:16

Saturday: *Paul Preaches in Rome*, Acts 28:23-31

How are these stories dramatic?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Do you live as though you were saved by grace or by your good works? What difference does it make? How does your faith inform your behaviors?

What is your favorite dramatic or exciting biblical story? Why?

Do: By acting on what we learn we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Turn your favorite Bible story into a movie. Find a phone app to help you edit your movie. Or just write your story as a movie script. Be creative! Upload your movie to your social media. How do people respond?

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

God unites us through Christ's love. Amen.