

Sept 20, 2026 Small Group Questions
Acts 15:1–29 “It Almost Ended Right Here”

1. Think of a time when you have seen a disagreement handled particularly well - in a family, friendship, church, or workplace. What allowed people to disagree without the disagreement damaging their relationship?

Read Acts 15:1–29

2. (1-5) What exactly is the disagreement facing the early church, and why do you think the issue mattered so deeply to both sides?

3. (6-21) How does the church go about discerning what God is doing? What different kinds of evidence do Peter, Paul and Barnabas, and James bring to the discussion?

4. Look particularly at Peter’s words in verses 7–11. What does Peter say is true of both Jewish and Gentile believers, and why does that matter for the disagreement?

5. In verses 19–29, the council refuses to require Gentiles to become Jews, but it still asks several things of them. What do you notice about the balance between freedom and restraint in their decision? What seems to be their concern?

6. Think about a disagreement you presently have with another Christian, or an issue on which Christians around you disagree. What might it look like to “begin with God” and “be rooted in grace” rather than beginning with your own position?

7. Where might God be inviting you to “lean in with love” - willingly giving up something you are free to have, do, or insist upon for the sake of another person and the unity of Christ’s church?