



Acts: The Birth of the Church in the World - Week 3: By Grace Alone

Acts 14

Discussion Questions for July 26th, 2026

1. (IceBreaker) The 4-H Fair wrapped up this last week. Did you make it over to visit? Did you participate in 4-H as a family, and if so, what animals or projects? What is your favorite "shake" flavor?
2. **Main Idea: Salvation By Grace Alone Through Faith Alone In Christ Alone.** Why would Paul and Barnabas travel hundreds of miles to resolve the issue encountered in Acts 15? What makes it so critical?
3. **Point #1: Grace Alone Disputed.** It's possible that the Jews arguing for circumcision were doing what they thought God actually wanted. What points of the story show that they were outside of God's will, even if they meant well? (possible answers include Old Testament prophecy like James quoted or the events Peter and the apostles experienced showing God's supernatural blessing on uncircumcised Gentiles coming to faith).
4. **Point #2: Grace Alone Defended.** Pastor Shaen warned about the temptation for a "grace plus" gospel. What are some modern examples of things Christians can subtly add to the gospel - as if they contribute to earning God's acceptance?
5. **Point #3: Grace Alone Displayed.** Were you surprised when the Council of Jerusalem made the final decision, including 4 things that new believers should abstain from? In your own words, why was this NOT a violation of the gospel being based on "grace alone?"
6. Pastor Shaen mentioned 1 Corinthians 9 where Paul talks about limiting his own freedom for the sake of the gospel (verses 19-23). Think of a modern-day example where you would limit your freedom for the sake of the gospel. Is there ever a time when you would engage in a conversation about a disputed issue? How can you do that and also preserve unity?
7. Pray that we always keep the gospel truth foundational to everything we say or do, that we are saved by grace

through faith in Jesus. Pray that our unity as a church comes from humility and consideration for one another rather than expecting total agreement in all details.