

Notes for Home groups

Reading: **Acts 15:1-21**

Topic: How to solve disagreements in the Church?

Overview of the passage:

- 1-5 **Issue** about Gentile Christians
- 6-11 Peter defends Gentile mission
- 12 Barnabas & Paul support Peter
- 13-21 James proposes **solution**
- 22-35 Official **agreement** reached

In the sermon we saw 3 **principles** that were used at the meeting in Jerusalem:

1. Look at **Scripture** to find a solution.
2. Review what the **Holy Spirit** has been doing.
3. Reach consensus as a **community**.

We also saw **4 points** that can help us in conflict resolution:

1. Clearly define the **issue**
2. Have an **open discussion**
3. Aim for a **win-win result**
Principle: 'Hold fast to the essentials and compromise on individual preferences'.
4. **Communicate**, communicate, communicate.

Questions for discussion:

1. For the creative/daring ones: 'act out' this story with your own words.
Assign the following roles to 4 different individuals:
 1. Group of Pharisees (1 person);
 2. Peter;
 3. Paul;
 4. James.
2. What do you find surprising in the story of the council in Jerusalem?
3. What are main reasons for conflicts in the church today?
4. From Acts 15 we learned that (1) Scripture, (2) the Holy Spirit and (3) the Community play an important role in resolving disagreements. Have you seen this happening in the real world? How?
5. How can you (we) contribute in a positive way in resolving disagreements in the church?