**Acts 15: Saved by Grace, Strengthened by Grace**

Big Idea: We are saved by grace, strengthened by grace, and called to extend grace to others.

Opening Question: Have you ever experienced something difficult that God used to grow you?

**1. The Problem: Adding Rules to Grace** Scripture: Acts 15:1–5

Some believers taught that Gentiles had to follow the law of Moses to be saved.

- We cannot earn salvation through religious performance.
- We must not add human requirements to the gospel.

Key Truth: We cannot add to what Jesus has already accomplished.

Discussion Question: How might we unintentionally add unnecessary burdens to the gospel?

**2. The Answer: Salvation Is by Grace** Scripture: Acts 15:6–21

Peter reminds the church that everyone is saved through the grace of Jesus.

- Salvation is received by faith, not earned by works.
- God's acceptance isn't based on perfection.
- Good works are the fruit of salvation, not the price of it.

Key Truth: We don't earn salvation; we receive it by faith.

Discussion Question: What does it mean to be saved by grace rather than religious performance? (Acts 15:11)

**3. The Result: Grace Brings Freedom and Unity** Scripture: Acts 15:22–35

The church responds to the decision with joy and encouragement.

- Grace brings freedom. Truth and grace belong together.
- The church should strengthen people, not crush them.

Key Truth: When grace is understood, God's people are strengthened.

Discussion Question: How can our church strengthen people rather than discourage them?

**4. The Conflict: Failure and Restoration** Scripture: Acts 15:36–41; 2 Timothy 4:11

Paul and Barnabas disagree about taking John Mark on another missionary journey.

- Paul is concerned about Mark's previous departure.
- Barnabas is willing to give Mark another opportunity.
- They separate, but God's mission continues.
- Later, Paul describes Mark as useful for ministry.

Key Truth: Don't let a past failure convince you that God cannot use you in the future.

Application: Who have you written off? Whose potential do you need to see?

Discussion Questions:

- What does Mark's story teach us about second opportunities?
- How can Christians disagree while still honoring Jesus?

**5. One Church, One Mission, One Prayer** Scripture: Acts 15:28

God continued working despite disagreement. As a church, we are called to unity around Jesus and His mission.

Announcement: Beginning Sunday, November 1, we will gather as one church family for one combined service at 10:00 AM, coinciding with the International Day of Prayer.

Our Mission: SEEK Jesus, SERVE the community, and SEND people to make disciples.

Our Vision: To be a multigenerational church that cultivates a lifelong desire to SEEK Jesus, SERVE the needs of our community, and SEND people to make disciples everywhere.

Key Truth: One Savior. One Gospel. One Mission.

Discussion Question: How can we SEEK Jesus, SERVE our community, and SEND people to make disciples this week?

**6. Closing and Ministry Time**

Ask each person to complete this sentence:

“This week, because of God's grace, I will _____.”