

# FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

## The Jerusalem Council

### WHAT YOU NEED

- Object that every family member can take turns holding
- Timer

1

### LET'S READ THE BIBLE

Take turns or have someone in your family read the following passages:

- Acts 15:1-2
- Acts 15:6-15
- Acts 15:19-20
- Acts 15:30-31

2

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Paul and Barnabas were in Antioch when some other Jews from Judea arrived and told the Gentiles they can only be saved by believing in Jesus AND following all the Jewish laws as well. Paul and Barnabas didn't agree and so there was an argument.

The argument wasn't settled and so the church decided to send Paul, Barnabas and some other men to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles.

In Jerusalem the apostles and elders discussed this question. Imagine sitting in that meeting. Have you ever sat around the table and had a family discussion? A healthy family discussion allows each person to share their thoughts about the matter being discussed in a respectful ways and honours them.

The Jerusalem meeting was being conducted with respect and honor to each person that spoke their opinion. There were people who stated why they felt strongly about Gentiles being circumcised. Others spoke about why they didn't believe this was correct. This could have turned into a fighting match where each person shouted their opinions over the others. That is not what happened. This argument could have broken up the church, but the Holy Spirit helped them to solve this problem in a peaceful way. A letter was written to the Gentiles telling them to respect the Jewish traditions, but they were not required to follow them in order to be saved.

3

### LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- Why did Paul and Barnabas leave the Antioch church and travel to Jerusalem?
- How did the problem get resolved between the Jewish and Gentile believers?
- What rules do we need to keep to be saved by Jesus? (*None. We need to believe in Jesus as our Saviour*)

4

### NOW WHAT?

- How does your family deal with disagreements?
- What can we as a family do to get better at dealing with our disagreements?

5

### LET'S HAVE SOME FUN

- Use your chosen object.
- Family members will take turns holding the object and telling a made-up story for 30 seconds (*make it as wild, fun and creative as possible*).
- When time is up, the next family member will hold the object and have 30 seconds to add on to the story
- *This activity will help us as a family practice to take turns and really listen to and respect each other - exactly what we should be doing when we disagree.*

6