



Lesson 7:

Jerusalem Council and Second Journey

Acts 15 -18:28. **Note:** This week I suggest reading in small doses with a map and notebook near by. Jot down the main events or “God works” that you see happening at each of Paul’s stops. We will hit the highlights in our discussion.

1. **Read Acts 15:1-21.** Read these verses carefully. What is the core question that Paul and Barnabas wanted the “mother church” in Jerusalem to answer? Why is getting that settled, then and now, such a big deal?
2. **Read Acts 15:19-35.** What did the Council decide? Why do you think the believers in Antioch found the outcome encouraging? (verse 31)
3. How does believing that we are “*under grace*” rather than “*under law*” affect the way we relate to God and others?
4. **Read Acts 15:36- 41.** In the dispute between Barnabas and Paul, with whom are you more sympathetic? Explain your answer.

Read Acts 16 - Paul travels to Macedonia (present day Greece)

5. In light of what was settled at the Council of Jerusalem, how do you make sense of Acts 16:3?
6. How far had Paul traveled on this second journey before the Holy Spirit revealed that he was to go to Macedonia? (check map 13 in the back of your Bible or another source) What lesson does that teach you about God’s guidance?

7. How did God use Paul and Silas' imprisonment for good?

Read Acts 17 - On to Thessalonica

8. We have run across the phrase "*But the Jews were jealous...*" (verse 5) several times in this study. What is the source of their jealousy and why do we need to beware when we experience feelings of jealousy?
9. In this study of Acts, I have found you to be more like the Bereans than the Athenians. Be ready to share what you think I mean by that statement.

Read Acts 18 - Paul in Corinth (he stayed here about 18 months)

10. While Paul was in Corinth, he wrote 2 letters to the churches in Thessalonica. Read the first ten verses of 1 & 2 Thessalonians, what do you learn from Paul's words?
11. In 1 Corinthians 2:1-3 Paul describes how he felt upon arrival in Corinth. He had been unable to plant a church in Athens so how do you see God ministering to him in Corinth?

Home to Antioch

12. Paul left Corinth and made his way back to Syrian Antioch, in 18:23 Luke announces the beginning of the third journey of Paul. Luke tells a "*Meanwhile*" story at the end of chapter 18. What do you find encouraging about the way God used Priscilla and Aquila in Apollos' life?