

LESSON 6—“A Message to Non-Jews”

Questions and Answers—Student Guide

Lesson goal: The goal of this lesson is to answer the question, “What encouraging message did the Council of Jerusalem send to the Gentile believers in Antioch?”

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read Acts 15:12-39

Think

Think about this: Have you ever felt judged or looked down upon by another person because of where you live or what you believe? Have you ever judged someone else because of where they live and what they believe?

Evaluate

1. Who are the characters in this story?
2. What are the objects in this story?
3. Where did this story happen?
4. When did this story happen?
5. What is the problem?
6. What events occurred in this story?
7. Is the problem solved?

Learn

8. What is the main theme of this lesson?
9. What sin or sins does this lesson teach you to confess?
10. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson?
11. What does God teach you to do in this lesson?

Lead

12. What would be a good situation in which to share this message?

Additional questions

13. When he arrived in a city, what was Paul’s normal strategy for evangelizing? What strategy would work in the community where you live to reach out to the most people possible with the Word of God?
14. What is the background of the Council of Jerusalem?
15. Give an overview of Paul’s first missionary journey.
16. Where are places in your country that do not yet know the grace of Jesus Christ? They could be nearby places and faraway places. Where could we go on missionary trips?

Lesson wrap-up

17. Ask the key questions: What encouraging message did the Council of Jerusalem send to the Gentile believers in Antioch?

There were Jewish Christians who felt that Gentile Christians needed to follow the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament in order to be considered true believers. However, after studying Scripture, the Council of Jerusalem determined that the Gentiles did not need to live according to the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament. They had freedom in Christ. However, they were told to refrain from sexual immorality and given several encouraging guidelines that would help them be sensitive to their Jewish brothers and sisters in the faith.