

*"One Church"*  
**Acts 13:1-3, 14:24-15:35 – October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**  
for Life Group study

*This guide, based on Sunday's sermon, provides additional study and reflection for Life Group discussion. It is not meant to serve as a full Bible study curriculum, exhaustive commentary, or complete Life Group itinerary, but simply as a conversational resource for further study. Feel free to use these thoughts below as you enjoy your Life Group experience!*



**1) Backgrounds**

Think of a culture different from your own. What is one element of it you love? (It could be food, clothing, language, mannerisms, location, history, etc).

**2) Devotional** - Share any insights God has given you from our Fall devotional book recently.

**3) Read Acts 13:1-3, 14:24-15:35 again and think back over Sunday's sermon.**

What points of the sermon or this passage resonated with you?

What questions came to mind? How were you challenged?

**4) Understanding the Passage**

The events of Acts 10:1-48 had already taken place, so what was new about the conflict arising in Acts 15:1-5? Why was it such a significant issue?

What reasons do Peter (Acts 15:7-11) and James (Acts 15:13-21) give for Gentile incorporation into God's Church? How does this help clarify what the Gospel is?

**5) Digging Deeper**

Check out Romans 16:25-26, Colossians 1:24-27, & Ephesians 3:2-6. How do these shed more light on the issues found in Acts 15?

Paul wrote letters to Christians in Corinth sometime after the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15). How can 1st Corinthians 9:19-23 shape our attitude around these issues?

**6) Personal Reflection**

Are there any cultural/ethnic/religious prejudices somewhere deep inside of you? How can you turn these over to God, and grow to be more welcoming of His people?

What are some ways you can sacrifice your own cultural & religious preferences in order to help incorporate people from different cultures into your home, your workplace, and your church? (Ask God for wisdom, grace, and strength to do so!)

## "One Church"

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Answers to Sunday's "fill in the blanks" & other Bible verses

*"My values have less priority than  
God's multi-ethnic, church-wide plan"*



### I. The Pioneering Church of Antioch (13:1-3)

#### A. Their Leadership

B. Their Mission: Paul and Barnabus' 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey's success affirmed Gentile incorporation! (14:24-28)

### II. Some Judean Christians visiting Antioch insist on full Gentile Assimilation rather than Incorporation (15:1-3)

### III. Even some Jewish Christians in Jerusalem insist on Gentile Assimilation rather than Incorporation (15:4-5)

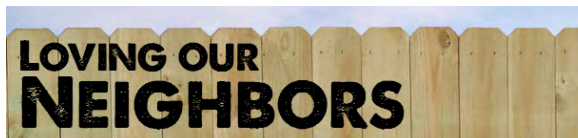
### VI. Peter and James defend Gentile Incorporation and the underdog newcomers to the Church are welcomed in fully! (15:6-21)

Q: How does God call us to include Christians from cultures different than ours?

A: God calls us to *incorporate* them, rather than require them to *assimilate* into our culture.

\*God's people shouldn't be "in a stew,"  
But mixed like salad: each part still in view!

### V. The Church rejoices as the good news of Gentile Incorporation is spread (15:22-35)



Last week you chose what you were going to do to "love your neighbor." Share what you did and what the results were!

If you haven't done it yet, go for it this week so we can celebrate next meeting!