

The Holy Spirit in Acts

Session 12: Forging Unity

Acts 15:1-35

Instructor: Dirk Rodgers

For Handouts, Discussion Guide and more, visit blog.dirkscorner.com.
Videos will also be posted on our [Bethany Church YouTube Channel](#).

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture passages are taken from the New International Version (2011), Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.


Session Outline

- 1. Challenge
- 2. Response
- 3. Result

1. Challenge

- The Source
- The Journey
- The Reception

3



The map depicts the eastern Mediterranean region, including parts of Asia Minor, the Levant, and the Mediterranean Sea. Key geographical areas are labeled: GALATIA, CAPPADOCIA, LYCIA, CILICIA, SYRIA, EGYPT, and NABATEA. Major cities and locations marked include Antioch (Pisidia), Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, Tarsus, Seleucia, Antioch (Syria), Byblos, Tyre, Damascus, Jerusalem, Salamis, Paphos, and Memphis. A prominent red arrow originates from Antioch (Syria) and points in a straight line to Jerusalem. A scale bar at the bottom indicates distances in miles (0, 50, 100, 150) and kilometers (0, 50, 100, 150, 200). The Mediterranean Sea is labeled to the west.

**Paul and Barnabas:
The Journey to
Jerusalem
Acts 15:2**

About 311 miles, in a
straight line

Map developed using Bible Mapper
software, © 2006 – 2015, David P.
Barrett

8

2. Response

“God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.”

Peter

Acts 15:8-9

Unified by the Holy Spirit’s purifying work!

2. Response

“The whole assembly
became silent as they

Barnabas & Paul

listened to Barnabas and Paul telling **about the
signs and wonders God had done among the
Gentiles** through them.”

Acts 15:12

Unified by celebrating the powerful work of the Spirit!

3. Result

➤ The Letter

➤ The Return

3. Result

“It seemed **good to the** The Letter
Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with
anything beyond the following requirements....”

Acts 15:28

Unified by Truth & Love

Conclusion

Previous Weeks: Through His Spirit empowering His faithful witnesses, God extends His spiritual kingdom to all nations.

This Week: When faced with cultural division, the Spirit provides power and direction for unity, if we will follow His lead.

28
