



The Chapel  
March 23, 2025  
Dave Gustavsen

Week 10: Simplify Your Message  
Scripture: Acts 15:1-31

---

### 1. OPEN IN PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

- Have a group member pray, invite the Holy Spirit to lead, and fill your time together.

### 2. GETTING STARTED: (10 MINUTES)

- Question: Have you ever felt like following Jesus was more about rules than a relationship? What helped you see the freedom He truly offers?

### 3. READ ACTS 15:1-31 TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)

- Ask one or two group members to read the passage aloud.

### 4. DISCUSS (30 MINUTES)

#### Understanding the Passage:

- In **Acts 15:9-10 and 19-21** Peter addresses how ceremonial restrictions are making it difficult for Gentiles to become believers. What non-essential things have you seen or experienced that make it harder for you or others to understand and accept the Gospel?
- In **Acts 15:5**, some believers, who were Pharisees, insisted that Gentile believers must be circumcised and follow the laws of Moses to be saved. How do some churches today add burdens to faith in Christ? In what ways does this distort the Gospel?
- Jesus fulfilled the ceremonial laws (like circumcision) so we no longer need to follow them. How does this change how you see your relationship with God?
- **Acts 15:19** emphasizes removing obstacles to faith. Why is it sometimes necessary to limit some of your freedom out of love? Pastor Dave gave examples from marriage and family, highlighting three areas: mission, fellowship, and protection. Which of these is most challenging for you and why?

#### Applying the Message:

- How would you explain the freedom of the Gospel to someone? How can you make salvation by grace, not works, easy to understand? How might this change a non-believer's view of Christianity—from a burden to true freedom found in Christ?
- When people spend time around you, do they experience the freedom and grace of Jesus, or do they feel weighed down by expectations? What is one way you can better reflect the joy and lightness of the gospel in your daily interactions?

- Where might God be calling you to voluntarily give up a personal freedom for the sake of loving others well—whether in mission, fellowship, or personal protection? How can you take a step of obedience in that area this week?

#### **5. LIVE IT OUT: (10 MINUTES)**

- Ask God to reveal any extra burdens (rules or practices) you may be placing on yourself or others. Thank Him for sending Jesus so you could be saved by grace through faith alone!

#### **6. CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)**

- Ask God for the wisdom to represent Him well.
- Pray for The Chapel leadership as they seek God's wisdom to make decisions and implement policies for the good of the church.