

Acts

vol. 4

the church
on mission

Acts 15:1-35

Obstacle courses were designed to create challenges and difficulty to reach the finish line. Sometimes we can put unnecessary obstacles between people and Jesus. This week we will look at the obstacles that the early church had to remove and ask ourselves; do we create unnecessary obstacles for people to follow Jesus?

This week we will focus on: **Are we making it easy or difficult for people to fall in love with Jesus?**

GETTING STARTED

If someone was to build an obstacle course specifically designed for you what obstacles would be in place? How would they get you to slow down, be distracted or stop and take a break. Think creative...no high walls and rope courses, but maybe there are Netflix Shows, cupcakes, or fishing rods.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpack its meaning.



Have someone in your group read **Acts 15:1-35**

- What stands out to you about today's passage?
- What were the men from Judea teaching the new believers? Why did this create conflict?
- According to Peter's speech how is the heart cleansed (v9)?

- The meeting that took place in response to this passage was called the Jerusalem Council. What does the resolution of this council tell you about the priorities of the early church and their understanding of the Gospel?

GETTING PRACTICAL

- 1) One of the primary questions that arose in the early church is what it takes to belong and to be saved. What did the early church determine was important? Why these things?
- 2) The church saw circumcision as an unnecessary burden. What are some unnecessary hurdles might be applied to today's church?
- 3) Notice that legalism was a major challenge of the early church. We still see that is an issue in the church today. What are some areas of legalism that you see present in our Christian Culture?
- 4) Where is the tension between legalism and righteous living? How do we pursue righteous living without become judgmental?