

PARENT GUIDE

JOURNEY

Lesson 4.2: Reach

WITNESSES

▶ SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 15:1-19

SUMMARY:

While last week students talked about how the promises of God may be for all people, is the gospel message suitable for all cultures and contexts? Or are we, at times, trying to fit a square peg into a round hole? Does the message have to change in order to connect people with Christ? This was precisely the question that Paul and Barnabas had to take on in the early church in the passage students studied this week.

It seems easy—almost natural—for us to either force people into the way we worship or, conversely, change the message because we are trying to be relevant. However, either end of that spectrum is missing the mark. The gospel message transcends time, space, and cultures. Our goal is to become like Peter and Paul—masters of understanding their audience and finding ways to speak truth in a way that does not compromise the message but connects to the hearts of people.

▶ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Talk to me about the most interesting thing you learned from this week's lesson.
- What did you have to change or give up from the normal culture when you decided to follow Jesus?
- What would you expect anyone else to change or give up when they follow Jesus?
- How do you determine if a behavior or practice is just culturally different than you're used to or an issue of sin?
- Tell me your next steps based on what you've learned. How can I help?

▶ CORE VERSE

Galatians 3:28

▶ CORE CONCEPTS

The promise of salvation is relevant in every culture and context.

Gentile: The designation of anyone not Jewish