

THE PLAN

34. The Council
(Acts 8-15)
May 8, 2022

Story Coordinates (Acts 8:1-4)

People (Who is the story about?)

Place (Where is their home?)

Presence (How can they meet with God?)

Purpose (What did God tell them to do?)

(Acts 1:8)

The Story (Acts 11-15)

- The Church in Antioch shared the Gospel with _____, and many of them became _____. (Acts 11:19-21)
- Some Jews argued that the Gentiles must _____ first, so the Apostles met together to decide the issue. (15:1-6)
- Peter testified that God had sent him to share _____ with _____ named Cornelius. (15:7, 11:5-12)

- God had given Cornelius the Holy Spirit when he _____ Jesus, before he had a chance to become _____. (11:12-16)
- Peter argued that the church should not _____ more from the Gentiles than _____. (15:8-11)
- The Apostles concluded that the church was the fulfillment of God's promise to _____ humanity around _____. (15:13-21, Isaiah 14:1)

The Morals

- The Church is made up of all the people God _____—whether we _____ them or not.
- The Church is not a new _____—it is the fulfillment of _____ mission to _____ the nations under God.
- The Church is God's plan to heal the _____ of humanity, as the people he accepts _____ accept each other. (Colossians 3:11)

Small Group Questions

1. Getting Started:

- What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
- How big of a problem is divisiveness in our culture today? In the American church?

2. Into the Bible (Isaiah 2:1-5)

- In real life, the Temple Mount is not very tall. What does it mean for the Temple Mount to become “the highest of all mountains?” (v. 2)
- What is Isaiah envisioning in verse 3? What does this imagery describe?
- What will be the result of God ruling over all nations, according to verse 4? What is God’s goal for humanity?

- What action does Isaiah call on Israel to take in order to play their part in this vision? (v. 5)

3. Going Deeper

- What are some expectations that Christians put on each other that God does not?
- Why are we so frequently tempted to divide from fellow Christians that God loves and accepts?
- What does it look like for our church to follow the example of the Council of Jerusalem and accept the people that God accepts?

4. Prayer

- Pray that God will give each of you the wisdom to see who he accepts, and the grace to accept them yourself.