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# Part V: Gentile Christians Affirmed *(Acts 15)*

## Application Guide: Acts 15

### 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

**Choose one:**

- a. Have you ever fought with your siblings or your parents? What is one of the most memorable fights you can think of?

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- b. Have you ever helped to settle a fight between people? What was the fight about and how did you help resolve the situation?

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### 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

**Background:** This passage is all about circumcision—do you even know what that is? Yikes! Not sure exactly why God chose that as a sign for His people, but He did—it’s talked about all throughout the Bible. Some people think God chose this sign for health reasons, but there is no concrete evidence.

It is important to note that circumcision was an old tradition from the Law of Moses, and the Jewish leaders were having a hard time giving up this old tradition when people who were not from the Jewish culture wanted to become Christians. Then the fight became about doing what you’ve always done versus listening for God’s new way forward when the situation changes.

How do you know what things about church should remain the same and which should change?

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Have you ever heard people argue about whether or not to ordain women pastors? Have you ever heard people argue about whether you should kneel, sit or stand when you pray? Did you know that some churches have split over what color carpet to put in the sanctuary? Why do you think people argue so fervently over these things?

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How much time do you think should be spent sorting out doctrinal issues like these versus helping the poor or witnessing to people who don't know Jesus?

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**3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)**

**Choose one:**

- a. Start a journal to try and sort out the things that cause conflict in your life. Keep track of every conflict you encounter for one week (for some people, one day may be enough!). At the end of the week, go over your list and try to determine which things are the most controversial for you. Try to determine if you get into conflict over little annoying things or over really big issues.
- b. Spend time thinking about each conflict and try to determine if the conflict did anything to help resolve the issue that was disputed. Would you be better off letting go of certain things? Are you truly accomplishing anything by arguing over the big things?

**4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)**

- a. Pray for Jesus to give you wisdom in dealing with the difficult issues that face you.
- b. Pray for Jesus to give you peace when you are upset and tend to say/do things you regret.
- c. Ask Jesus to keep you busy serving Him so you won't be distracted with less important things that tend to be controversial and upsetting.

