



May 17th, 2026

Sermon: ACTS: The Spirit and The Story | The First Council

Main text: Acts 15:1-11

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION REFLECTIONS & QUESTIONS...

Key Reflections/Quotes:

The council ultimately clarified that:

- Salvation is by **grace through faith in Jesus alone**
- Human effort, traditions, or religious performance cannot save
- The Holy Spirit, not circumcision, is now the marker of belonging to God's people

The sermon then shifts toward application: believers are called to build their lives on Jesus as the true foundation and help strengthen others in their faith.

The defining mark of belonging to God is no longer external religious identity, but:

- Faith in Jesus
- The presence of the Holy Spirit
- Baptism as a response of obedience and identity

Key Quotes:

"Jesus alone is the foundation of our faith."

"Circumcision doesn't save. Jesus does."

"We gather here to be strengthened, so we can scatter to live on mission for Jesus in this world."

"The Holy Spirit is now the marker of the people of God." (theme from Acts 15:8-9)

"Kairos moments can happen instantly, but they are often the result of God's work over time."

Key Questions:

1. What foundations besides Jesus are you sometimes tempted to build your identity or security upon?
2. Have you ever subtly believed that God accepts you more because of your performance, church attendance, knowledge, or service? If yes, why do you think that has been the case?
3. Why do you think the issue of circumcision and works created such tension in the early church?
4. What are some modern-day "extras" Christians sometimes add to the Gospel today? (Read Acts 15:1-11)
5. What would it practically look like this week to build your life more fully on Jesus as your foundation?
6. In what ways can your small group continue to be a place where people are strengthened and rooted more deeply in Christ?

