



**Topeka Bible Church**  
**The Life of Paul, Episode 10:**  
**"Turtle on a Fencepost"**  
**Community Group Study Questions**  
**Acts 15:1-11**

1. What does it mean to say that Satan attacks externally as well as internally? Do you agree that this is Satan's pattern of attacking followers of Christ? Have you ever survived an external attack only to be met with an internal one?
  
2. Why did certain men believe that it was necessary to be circumcised in order to be saved (Acts 15:1, 5)? What were they claiming was the basis for salvation, grace or works? Why was their claim a dangerous one?
  
3. Do you tend to view salvation and living the Christian life from a "performance" perspective? If so, can you have any assurance that you have reached the standard that God demands of us? How do God's grace and faith in Jesus Christ grant us this assurance?
  
4. Why was this Jerusalem Council so important in the history of the church? Why do we not have similar councils in the church today? How did Paul and Barnabas' missionary experience qualify them to attend this Council?

5. In *Acts 15:7ff*, Peter enters the debate and begins to mention how God promised that Gentiles would hear the gospel and believe. Why might this have caused the Jewish Christians who were present to be uncomfortable?
  
6. How were some of the Jewish Christians testing God and placing a “yoke” upon the Gentile Christians? To what does this phrase refer? Have you ever done the same and placed this “yoke” upon yourself or others?
  
7. What does Peter claim is the basis for salvation in *Acts 15:11*? Reading similar verses such as *Ephesians 2:8-9* and *Titus 3:5*, why do you think that many people (Christians and non-Christians alike) struggle to embrace that salvation is by grace through faith in Christ alone? Do you struggle to embrace this truth?

**Memory Verse:**

***“But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.”***  
**(Acts 15:11, NASB)**