



Day 1

Faith Fact

We can solve disagreements with God's help.

Faith Verse

Ephesians 4:3 (NLT)

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Question of the Day: Who can we go to for help when we have a disagreement?

Read about It

Read: Acts 15:1–11

Did you know that people don't always agree with each other all the time? It's true. Think of the last time your family was trying to decide what movie to watch or game to play. Your family members probably had different ideas. You probably had to talk it out, give reasons for why you thought what you did, and then, make a final choice. Sometimes a grown-up helps to decide how things should be.

This is like what happened in today's Scripture reading, but it was about something much more serious than what game to play. There was a disagreement about what needed to happen for a person to be saved and become part of God's family. So, after some long conversations, the church saw that they needed to talk about it with the leaders—the apostles and elders. God used those leaders to speak wisdom about a tough disagreement. When we don't know how to solve a problem with another believer, we can do the same thing. We can ask for God's wisdom, and we can trust godly leaders to help us.

Talk about It

Question 1. What happened between the men from Judea and Paul and Barnabas?

Answer 1. They had a disagreement and started arguing. (Acts 15:1–2)

Question 2. When they couldn't come to an agreement, what did the church in Antioch do?

Answer 2. They sent Paul and Barnabas to talk to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem about the question. (Acts 15:2)

Question 3. When have you had a disagreement with someone, and how did you handle it?

Answer 3. Answers will vary.

Question 4. Why is it sometimes hard to solve a disagreement?

Answer 4. Answers will vary.

Question 5. Who can we go to for help when we have a disagreement?

Answer 5. We can ask for God's wisdom, and we can trust godly leaders to help us.

Pray about It

Dear God, thank You that You generously give wisdom to those who ask. Help us to look to You when we disagree with other people who also love You. Amen.

Day 2

Faith Fact

We can solve disagreements with God's help.

Faith Verse

Ephesians 4:3 (NLT)

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Question of the Day: What are some things to remember when we have disagreements with other believers?

Read about It

Read: Acts 15:12–20

Maybe you know this from your own life, but imagine how hard it would be to make a family decision if everyone was talking at the same time. Nothing would actually be decided, right? In today's Scripture, the Jerusalem council of leaders listened quietly as Paul and Barnabas explained all the things they had seen God do and why they believed what they believed. Then others took their turn to talk. Everyone wanted the same thing—to do things the way God wanted them to and find the truth. That's a good guide for us to remember when we disagree with other Christians.

All of us are growing in our relationship with God. As followers of Jesus, we should all want to see God's plans happen. If we give others the opportunity to talk when we disagree, it will help us understand their point of view and allow us to come to a solution that honors God together. After all, no one is perfect, and we are trying to live for God.

Talk about It

Question 1. What was everyone doing while Barnabas and Paul shared about what God was doing?

Answer 1. Everyone listened quietly. (Acts 15:12)

Question 2. How did the Early Church come to a solution?

Answer 2. They listened to James, a godly leader, whom God used to help them come to a decision on what should be done. (Acts 15:13–20)

Question 3. Why should we give others the opportunity to talk when we have differences that lead to disagreements?

Answer 3. It will help us understand their point of view and allow us to come up with a solution together that honors God.

Question 4. How do you think God wants us to treat other believers when we don't agree on something? Why?

Answer 4. Answers will vary.

Question 5. What are some things to remember when we have disagreements with other believers?

Answer 5. We can remember to do things the way God wants us to and to find the truth. Other answers may vary.

Pray about It

Dear God, even when there are disagreements in the church, help us to treat each other with grace and respect. We ask for Your help and wisdom in helping us know what You want us to do. Amen.

Day 3

Faith Fact

We can solve disagreements with God's help.

Faith Verse

Ephesians 4:3 (NLT)

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Question of the Day: How should we respond to spiritual leaders?

Read about It

Read: Hebrews 13:17–21

In our world, there are all kinds of authority figures. In your home, there are parents and guardians who are there to help you grow and do the right thing. In school, there is a teacher who makes sure you are taught the things you need to know while you are in their classroom. A judge is an authority figure whose job is to help settle legal disputes.

God has given authority to pastors and leaders to help your church grow in His way and function the way that He wants. These leaders are responsible to God for leading the church in peace and making difficult decisions when there are big disagreements. When there is something difficult happening in the church, we can look to God for wisdom. We can trust our leaders to help us come to a solution.

Talk about It

Question 1. What do today's Bible verses say is the work of spiritual leaders?

Answer 1. To watch over us (Hebrews 13:17)

Question 2. Who are some of the people in your life that are authority figures?

Answer 2. Answers will vary.

Question 3. Why do you think God has placed authority figures in your life?

Answer 3. Answers will vary.

Question 4. Why has God given leaders to each church?

Answer 4. God has given authority to pastors and leaders to help your church grow in His way and function the way that He wants.

Question 5. How should we respond to spiritual leaders?

Answer 5. We should follow their leading and make leading a joy for them. (Hebrews 13:17)

Pray about It

Dear God, thank You for the godly leaders in our church. We ask You to give them wisdom to lead us the way that You want. Amen.

Day 4

Faith Fact

We can solve disagreements with God's help.

Faith Verse

Ephesians 4:3 (NLT)

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Question of the Day: How should we react when another Christian is at fault or offends us?

Read about It

Read: Colossians 3:5–15

When we face problems, it can be easy to become frustrated and angry when we can't find the answer we're looking for. Maybe you've tried to build something, and the pieces didn't fit right,

so you threw it down and it broke. Or maybe you said unkind words in an argument. In these times, our sinful nature likes to creep up. Sometimes, we do things that don't show the love of God. Because we are human, these things can happen in the church when there are big disagreements.

Our Scripture today can help us keep our thinking right when we face those tough challenges, especially in the church. Because we know that God's plan matters most, we should want to treat each other the way He wants us to. We need to be sure that we are patient with each other, forgiving each other, and making allowances for each other's faults. Even when we have big disagreements, we can trust God to help us, and we can make every effort to work together for a solution in peace.

Talk about It

Question 1. What do today's Scriptures say matters more than our ethnicity and background?

Answer 1. Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:11)

Question 2. What are some things today's Scripture says we should clothe ourselves in?

Answer 2. Tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience (Colossians 3:12)

Question 3. Why is it sometimes easy for us to lose our patience in the middle of a disagreement?

Answer 3. Answers will vary.

Question 4. What does it look like to treat others with kindness and respect in the middle of disagreements?

Answer 4. Answers will vary.

Question 5. How should we react when another Christian is at fault or offends us?

Answer 5. We should make allowances and forgive. (Colossians 3:13)

Pray about It

Dear God, thank You that even in the middle of difficult disagreements, You are here to help us. Help us to love each other and treat each other the way You want us to as we work to find a solution that honors You. Amen.