Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Acts 15:1-35

The First Church Council

Getting Started

When can a yoke be helpful? When is it unhelpful?

Digging In

1. **Read Ac vss. 1-5.** Describe the problem that arose in the church at Antioch.

2. How did the church leaders at Antioch deal with the problem?

3. **Read vss. 6-11**. What key points did Peter make in his address to the assembly in Jerusalem? (See also Gal 5:1.)

4. What contribution did Barnabas and Paul make?

5. How are the apostles' ideas supported by Galatians 3:1-14?

6. **Read vss. 12-21**. What were the key points made by James?

7. What is James' purpose in quoting Amos 9:11-12? What is the relevance of this passage to the argument James is making?

8. Why does James make these specific recommendations in vs. 20? (Note vss. 19 and 21.)

9. **Read vss. 22-35**. How was James' recommendation received by the church in Jerusalem? What did they decide to do?

10. How does the church's decision show a balance between freedom and love? (See Galatians 5:13-14.)

11. How would this decision help maintain the unity of the Church?

Getting Personal

- How does Jesus' yoke in Matthew 11:28-30 compare with the yoke of the law in Acts 15:10?

- Are there ways that we put a heavy yoke on believers today? Explain.

- What are some ways in which God calls us to both freedom and love in living out our faith today? (See Gal 5:13-14)

- How can you zealously pursue godliness without putting yourself under the yoke of the law?