






Small Group/ Reflection Notes

22-10-2023		Controversy at Council	
 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> What have you learnt this week? <input type="checkbox"/> What do you wish you hadn't learnt this week?		
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> What's harder: learning or unlearning? <input type="checkbox"/> What were you told in earlier life that now you're not so sure about? <input type="checkbox"/> Why do we sometimes find it hard to engage with different perspectives on faith?		
 Read	Acts 15:1-21	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch
 Explore	<input type="checkbox"/> v.1 : Why were Jewish-heritage followers of Christ still advocating mandatory circumcision? How does our inherited customs/ culture/ upbringing/ past teaching influence <i>our</i> assumptions/ beliefs? Why do we sometimes expect others to follow our experience/ custom? <input type="checkbox"/> v.2 : Why the sharp debate/ dispute? Why was it necessary? <input type="checkbox"/> v.5 : Why hear a different perspective? What might having been <i>heard</i> done for these 'believers'? How do we co-exist with those we disagree with? <input type="checkbox"/> v.7 : Why might Peter have addressed them as ' <i>Brothers</i> '? Why say, 'Brothers, <i>you know</i> '? Who is 'agree to disagree' easy for some but <i>painful</i> for others? 'Some time ago': Why was the journey to inclusion and beyond so tortuous? <input type="checkbox"/> v.11 : How does it shift from 'them/us' to 'we/our'? Why does being 'in Christ' trump any human label we use for ourselves or others? <input type="checkbox"/> v.12-13 : What had James been doing during this debate? Why was it important he eventually 'spoke up'? <input type="checkbox"/> v.14-15 : What's the link between <i>experience</i> and <i>theology</i> ? What happens when we have one but not both? <input type="checkbox"/> v.16-18 : Why did Amos 9:11-12 speak of <i>Edom</i> seeking the Lord and all <i>nations</i> bearing the Lord's name, whereas James spoke of all <i>humanity</i> and all <i>Gentiles</i> ? What was James realising about God's vision? <input type="checkbox"/> v.19-21 : What was the Council's decision? What was the Church <i>not</i> to do? Why? What were Gentiles <i>not</i> to do? Why? Why was this not about going back to Leviticus? Why stay clear of Greek/ Roman pagan Temple rituals?		
 Go further	<input type="checkbox"/> How might the Jerusalem Council, and the inclusion debate about whether or not to 'remove the brackets of circumcision' for Gentiles, be a model for us today? To what extent does it help us with our current inclusion debate about whether or not to 'remove the brackets' for LGBTQ+ Gentiles? See ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Consultation		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? <input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why?		

Reflect	<input type="checkbox"/> Who do you most identify with in this encounter?
 Do	<input type="checkbox"/> Engage with the current consultation Go to ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Consultation
 Pray	Dear God, I thank you that _____. Show me more of Your _____. Teach me to be more _____.
 My questions:	

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk.