



# READING SCRIPTURE TOGETHER

Week 8

# COMMUNAL DISCERNMENT

**What do Christians argue  
about today?**

## Debate in Acts 15: The “Jerusalem Council”

- Do Gentiles need to be circumcised to be saved?
  - (Not about legalism)
  - (Not about whether Jews need to obey the law)
- Real question is what do Gentiles do to participate as part of the chosen people of God?

# Debate Instructions

- Split into one of three parties:
  - Christian Pharisees
  - Paul's party
  - Peter's party
- You have 10 min to come up with your best 2-3 arguments for your party speaker
- Each speaker will have 3 min to make their best case, then we will discuss (debate :-)

# Potential Factors to Weigh when Interpreting

- Scripture
  - Tradition
  - Experience
  - Reason
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- Model: Communal Discernment
  - Goal: “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...”  
(Acts 15:28)

**Thank you.**

(and time to pray)