



UNLIMITED

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WEEK 8

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group.

This series from Acts 9-15 tells the story of Jesus' first disciples learning that the gospel is for all. It cannot be limited by race, by tradition, or even by persecution. It calls the church in every generation to embrace the unlimited mission of God.

- 1 This series has been a reminder that the first Christians had a message that could not be limited by the boundaries of race, status, culture, tradition, or even sin. They preached a gospel of unlimited grace — but they almost didn't. **Read Acts 15:1-6.** What was at stake in this conversation? What were the implications for world missions?
- 2 Paul and Barnabas were determined not to budge on this issue, not even for the sake of "*peace in the body*." How does a Christian determine when it is wise to compromise and when it is unwise to do so?
- 3 This meeting was significant because every time we add to the gospel we subtract its outreach potential. **Read Acts 15:7-18.** What are some of the arguments the apostles are making for the "*Jesus alone*" gospel and what is significant about each of them?
- 4 It is not the preaching of Jesus that limits the expansion of his reign in the world. It is what the church too often adds to the preaching of Jesus that creates barriers. **Read Acts 15:19.** What are some of the ways Christians today might make it difficult for people who are turning to God?
- 5 The early church decided that the mission must not be limited by tradition. The church in every generation must keep making the same decision. How have you seen this to be true here at The Hills?
- 6 **GRACE IS LIMITED... when we focus on the insider over the outsider.** In other words, grace is limited when churches care more about who they might lose than who they might win. With that in mind, how would you respond to this question: Does "*how I want church to be*" trump "*how church might need to be*" to reach those far from God?
- 7 **GRACE IS LIMITED... when we focus on the outside over the inside.** In their day grace was being limited by Pharisees who had become Christians. In our day, grace is limited by Christians who are trying to become Pharisees. What is the appeal of "*add-on*" religion? What are its dangers?
- 8 We don't have to perform, and we don't have to pretend. We just have to proclaim and believe that "*it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved*." That is the only message that can reach our world. **It is an UNLIMITED gospel!** It is not limited by race, by economic status, by education level... and it is not limited by your past, your struggles, and your flaws. Why is that such a powerful message for our world and for you personally? What can we do to keep from drifting to a different message?