



Session 4: Dealing with Differences

Consider how the early Christians handled differences in faith matters and community practices. Read Acts 6:1-7, Acts 15:1-41, and Acts 21:17-26.

Questions to spark discussion based on reading of Acts:

1. What situations prompt serious discussion among Christians?
2. How do Christian leaders recognize and solve problems?
3. Describe times when Christians seem to “agree to disagree” and part ways.
How does parting ways affect the Christian community?
4. What faith traditions cause friction among Christians and Christian communities?

Questions to spark discussion based on Acts and personal experiences:

1. What situations prompt disagreements among Christians today – in the local community or the broader Christian community?
2. What happens to problems you see? Are they dealt with and resolved quickly, do they fester and worsen, or do they resolve themselves without intervention?
3. How do you deal with differences and disagreements with other Christians?
What are positive and negative aspects of your approaches? How might you change how you or others handle conflict?
4. What role does tradition and culture play in disagreements?
5. How can remembering core beliefs benefit the Christian community?

Purpose: Explore the sources of conflict among Christians in the early church and learn how (and whether) conflict was resolved.

Desired Outcome: Learn how to handle differences among Christians in ways that recognize traditions and reinforce our connection through Christ.

Big Idea: Christians may differ in certain practices, but we are all saved by the grace of God through our belief in Jesus.