

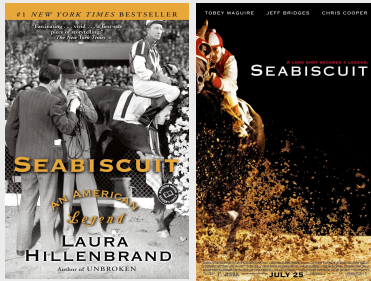
ACTS TO REVELATION

Drive Thru History | The World of the First Christians

This Week

Acts 15:1-16:10, James, 1 & 2 Timothy, Galatians

More Resources



Seabiscuit is both a great book by Laura Hillenbrand and a fantastic movie that illustrates an important value that should live at the core of our lives as Christ-followers. Seabiscuit is the story of how people drew the best out of one another, when their lives were filled with disappointment and pain. Their example, including the courageous story of a remarkable race horse named Seabiscuit, encouraged a hurting and broken nation to believe that good things were still possible.

Week 8 Preview

Up Next: Acts 16:11-17:9, Philippians, 1&2 Thessalonians



The Jerusalem Council & Paul's Second Missionary Journey

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

MAP OF PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY (Click [HERE](#) to Enlarge)



Which part of this week's reading and video caught your attention the most? What insights did you glean? What questions do you have? Is God speaking to you about a situation in your own life through these Scriptures? What are you learning about God?

Even More Resources



IF YOU WANT TO WATCH EPISODES of Drive Thru History: Acts to Revelation, you can view them online at TubiTV.com. Just click **HERE** to access their website.

Small Group Prayer Requests

To help you pray for one another during the week, please take notes on the requests that are shared. Please remember that everything people talk about in your group is confidential.

PETER TAKES A STAND FOR THE GOSPEL (Acts 15:1-35)

Let's retrace Peter's journey from being a person who would never have entered the home of a Gentile, to the person we meet in this passage. Peter's transformation began on the roof of Simon the Tanner's home and blossomed in the home of a Roman Centurion named Cornelius. As Peter shared the good news with Cornelius and his family, God stunned Peter by pouring out His Spirit even on the Gentiles. With God's help, Peter crossed a cultural divide that had separated Jews and Gentiles for centuries. Then in Antioch, according to the Book of Galatians, Peter backtracked, pulling away from the Gentile Christians when the Judaizers showed up and insisted that faith in Christ alone was not enough. The people from Jerusalem said that the Gentiles had to be circumcised in order for them to be saved. The Apostle Paul publicly confronts Peter and charges him with gross hypocrisy. Peter apparently goes away from that confrontation with Paul and rethinks what he believes. This passage in Acts 15 is the fruit of that soul-searching reflection.

- What was so dangerous about the teaching of the people from Judea (often called Judaizers)? (Acts 15:1-2)? What was at stake? Note: This is what a major portion of the Book of Galatians is all about.
- The leaders in Antioch realize they would not be able to settle this conflict on their own, so they sent Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to discuss this fundamental question: On what is our salvation, our relationship with God based? In Acts 15:5-11, what argument does Peter make to the leaders of the church in Jerusalem? Is there anything that particularly stands out to you in his argument? Why does it grab your attention?
- How do Paul and Barnabas build on Peter's argument in Acts 15:12?
- How does James respond in Acts 15:13-29? What is his recommendation? What do you think of the restrictions he includes in the letter he writes to the church?
- To what degree is your Christian discipleship grounded in your faith in Christ's faithfulness or do you struggle with feeling like you have to earn your relationship with God?

PAUL AND BARNABAS SPLIT UP (ACTS 15:36-41)

Remember on their first missionary journey Paul and Barnabas brought a young man named John Mark with them. He ended up leaving them when the three of them arrived in Asia Minor. Apparently, John Mark's decision to not continue the journey did not sit well with Paul. Barnabas has a completely different response. Keep in mind, that John Mark will one day write the Gospel According to Mark.

- How do you explain this response of Paul to John Mark?
- How do you explain Barnabas' decision to take Mark with him?
- Who's leadership style resonates with you the most, Paul's or Barnabas'? Explain.
- Towards the end of his life, Paul mentions (John) Mark in one of his letters to Timothy (see 2 Timothy 4:11). What does that seem to imply?

SUCSESSES AND ROADBLOCKS (Acts 16:1-10)

Note the change in pronouns in Acts 16:8 and 9. Who has joined the team?

- How would you summarize what Paul and Silas were able to accomplish?
- What do Paul, Silas and their team do when they hit roadblocks, even ones erected by the Holy Spirit? In what way might their experience help you find your way into the heart of God's will for your life?
- What prayer request would you like to share?