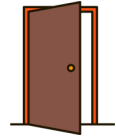


Week beginning 19th June 2023

Welcome

What is the best gift you have ever received or given?



15 mins

Worship

Read Ephesians 1:11-17 and spend some time praising God for the reconciliation he brings to us through Jesus.

Suggested songs: Your grace is enough, Father, make us one, Only by grace, Never once, Build your kingdom here



20 mins

Word

Read Acts 15:1-21

1. If you were a Gentile in the church at Antioch, how would you feel when you heard from these men that you needed to follow these regulations (v1)?
2. What is the main issue as far as Paul is concerned (see Galatians 2:21; 3:5-10)?
3. What is Peter's argument here?
4. What is the significance of the decision taken here?
5. Why are certain conditions added (v20)? (Mark suggested that these might be associated with pagan worship, so abstaining from them is a sign of turning away from this and turning towards Jesus.)
6. What part do experience, scripture and practical considerations have in this decision? How can these help us in decisions we need to make as a church?
7. The key concern in what James says is that 'we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.' Are there things we do in church that make it difficult for newcomers? What can we do about these?
8. This chapter reminds us that we all come to God on the same basis, God's grace. How can we show this in our lives and the life of our church?



45 mins

Witness

'Are you envious because I am generous?' (Matthew 20:15)

Think about this story of Jesus this week and pray for one or two people who don't yet know him.



10 mins