



# DIGGING DEEPER

Messy | 2.11.18

This study guide is designed to help you dig deeper into the weekend message and apply it to your life. The questions below are meant to encourage thoughtful reflection, discussion, and prayer for you and your group. If you missed the message (or want to hear it again) go to [fopc.org/sermon](http://fopc.org/sermon) or download the Fair Oaks Church App.

**PRAY** [Have someone open in prayer]

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week we continued our series *The Church is...* Messy—it's not about keeping rules and regulations but about the relationship being restored between God and all the people he loves.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read through our Key Scripture as a group, then take a minute to discuss any observations or thoughts on the passage, or related to this week's message.
2. Why do you think some of the believers were insistent that the Gentiles needed to follow the Law of Moses? Is there any merit to following the Law of Moses? Reread verse 1, what IS necessary to be saved?
3. This weekend we learned that when rules and "law" become necessary for salvation it creates barriers between people and God. What barriers have you had to overcome? Are there any barriers that we are creating as a church that inhibits others from coming to know Jesus?
4. How can you adjust your relationships and habits in order to help remove barriers that exist in the church? I.E. pray for people instead of gossiping about them, serving others rather than avoidance.
5. The biggest way to bring down barriers in the church is by practicing authenticity and accountability. Who in your life can you be honest about your sins, struggles, and successes with? How does authenticity remove barriers? What is one step you can take to leading a more authentic Christian faith?

## KEY SCRIPTURE [Read aloud]

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." <sup>2</sup>This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. <sup>3</sup>The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad. <sup>4</sup>When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

<sup>5</sup> Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses."

<sup>6</sup> The apostles and elders met to consider this question. <sup>7</sup> After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup> God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. <sup>9</sup> He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup> Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup> No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

<sup>12</sup> The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. <sup>13</sup> When they finished, James spoke up. "Brothers," he said, "listen to me. <sup>14</sup> Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. <sup>15</sup> The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: <sup>16</sup> "'After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, <sup>17</sup> that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things'—<sup>18</sup> things known from long ago.

<sup>19</sup> "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. **Acts 15:1-19 (NIV)**

**PRAY**