Acts 15- The Council at Jerusalem

CHARACTERS: Peter, Paul, Barnabas, A, B, C, Leader, chorus
COSTUMES: Biblical
PROPS: none specified
SETTING: bare stage
RUN TIME: 3 minutes
SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Acts 15, 14

AT RISE: A group is gathered to discuss the church. Some are seated, others stand.

JAMES: This council has been gathered to discuss the Gentiles who wish to join our number.

A: Must the Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses?

PETER: No. God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted Gentiles by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.

B: We were witnesses of this at Cornelius'.

C: All four of us.

B: That's twice the number of witnesses required by the law.

PETER: He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.

A: But must the follow the law as we do as well as follow Christ?

PETER: 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? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.

C: Barnabas, what have you seen?

BARNABAS: While Paul and I preached in Iconium, God confirmed the message of his grace by enabling us to perform signs and wonders.

PAUL: In Lystra, a lame man walked.

JAMES: Peter has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. We should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

A: Agreed *(ad lib others agree)*

PETER: Let us send Barsabbas and Silas to accompany Paul and Barnabas to Antioch.

JAMES: With a letter that they should abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality.

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LEADER: The men went to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter.

ALL: The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message.

LEADER: Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus

ALL: Paul and Silas went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

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