



STUDY GUIDE

VOYAGE 07.10.2016

[set up]

What have been your thoughts and feelings on the events of last week with the Baton Rouge, Falcon Heights and Dallas shootings?

How have you seen these events lead to unity and agreement as well as disunity and disagreement?

[digging deeper]

This last weekend we looked at a great disagreement that occurred between two godly men. **Read Acts 15:36-41** to see it in person.

The Apostle Paul and his friend and ministry partner, Barnabas, did not see eye to eye. What was the primary issue? How can seeing this disagreement actually be encouraging for us as we try to be a disciple of Jesus and grow other disciples of Jesus?

How did God take what was initially a bad thing and turn it into something useful for the Gospel and His kingdom?

Explain how this passage is “descriptive” and not “prescriptive” for us.

Look into all or some of the following verses that give insights from God on how to deal with disagreement with others. A great exercise is to write a list of guidelines on conflict from these passages. With your LifeGroup, get a piece of paper and work together on building this list.

Rom. 14:1, 19	James 4:11	Phil. 4:2	Matt. 5:25	Matt. 18:15-17
2 Tim. 2:14, 23	Prov. 17:14	Prov. 26:17	1 Cor. 1:10	1 Cor. 3:3

The message this last week encouraged us to hold loosely to our personal opinions and tightly to the Gospel. How can focusing on the Gospel help us through disagreements and help create unity, especially in the face of tragedy?

List several tangible ways we can try to live out and emphasize the Gospel when we find ourselves dealing with difficulty and disunity. Which one of these ways can really help right now with the tensions and issues that have been brought to the surface this last week?

[living it out]

Looking at the list of tangibles ways to apply God's Word that you came up with from above, and also considering the ones we mentioned last Sunday (Believe, Learn, Pray, Weep, Hope, Engage, Diversify), choose one that you can do this very week and share it with your group.

Here is a post from a woman named Judy as an example of what we can do:

My grandsons and I decided to make a huge fruit salad and deliver it with a thank you note to our local police dept! It was received well and the boys got 2 coloring books each from the policemen! Thank you for the inspiration to say thank you to those that protect and serve us.

What can you do this week?

Prayer Time:

- Let the themes of your prayer time come from the insights and verses above.
- Pray for our nation, for God to move and heal. Say a special prayer for the law enforcement and African American communities.
- Pray for Cleveland as the Republican National Convention takes place next week: For peace, unity, no violence, and for opportunities to share the Gospel. Check next week's program and CVC's social media for prayer opportunities at CVC. Also consider coming out to "The Response" prayer gathering Saturday to pray with other believers in Cleveland for the RNC - <http://theresponseusa.com/ohio/>