



NOVEMBER 15, 2020 / WHAT ARE WE FOR? / ACTS 15:12-21

Have we removed all barriers from helping people meet God through the ministry of our church?

The FOR series, about the life of our church, is born out of two simple questions: What do we want to be known FOR? And What are we known for by the larger community? Growth happens when the answers to these questions match; when those who've said no to the church realize the church is saying yes to them. In a cynical world where the church is often known for what it is against, let's be a church known for who and what we are FOR.

READ ACTS 15:12-21.

1. How might this conflict, if not resolved, have threatened the growth of the early church? (see Galatians 3:1-3)
2. Why might it have been difficult for Jewish Christians to let go of this practice (Acts 15:5)? (see Genesis 17:13-14)
3. Who is the focal point of the argument made here for not requiring Gentile circumcision (Acts 15:4, 7-10, 12, 14)?
4. Are there barriers in our church that keep some people away from seeking a relationship with God?
5. Are there barriers in your life that hinder the message of the gospel to those around you?
6. What steps might we take to make our church more open and attractive to people in our community?

GOD AND FATHER, HELP ME REMOVE ANYTHING IN MY LIFE THAT WOULD HINDER THE GOSPEL'S MESSAGE FROM REACHING OTHERS AROUND ME.



PRAYER GUIDE

The FOR series challenges us to live out the Gospel of Jesus FOR our world and community. Prayer centers our hearts to value what Jesus values and reorient our priorities to Kingdom priorities. Yes, we pray to see God change circumstances, but we also pray so that God will change us – change the way we see our world, change the ways we see our neighbors, change the ways we live out the gospel.

Take this FOR Prayer Guide individually and in your small group. Based on what we are engaging on Sunday morning for this series, use this guide to focus your prayers in this critical time in our world. We have offered a few prompts to help, but also blank spaces for you to add your own prayer requests.

You can use this guide to pray during the whole series. Here are some ideas:

- Pray each morning during the time you read your Bible.
- Walk around your neighborhood praying and adding requests.
- Take a whole small group meeting to pray together.
- Join us on December 5th in a church wide prayer gathering.

See our recommendations below - Use the spaces add your own requests:

Pray FOR the World / Specific Focus – the pandemic, our global partners, the 10/40 window:

Pray FOR the Community / Specific Focus – America, Rochester, Your Neighborhood:

Pray FOR your life / Specific Focus – Loving your neighbors, Transformation through God's Word, Deepening Prayer, Serving: