

"PREACHING THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND
TEACHING THINGS ABOUT THE LORD
JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL OPENNESS,
UNHINDERED."

- ACTS 28:31

**AUG
SEPT**
B.O.T.M
BOOK OF THE MONTH
2026



"Grace Greater Than Boundaries"

We're glad you're here today. Whether you've been coming for years or this is your first time walking through the doors. Pull up a seat, grab a coffee, and make yourself at home.

Included is a two-page notes handout for this morning's message. It follows the four movements of the sermon, with key scriptures, fill-in-the-blank prompts to keep you tracking with the message, and space to write your own thoughts. On the back, you'll find five discussion questions for your Connect Group or Acts Triad this week, along with this week's daily reading plan and the Week 2 Unhindered Challenge #UHDC. Keep it. Write on it. Reflect on it during the week.

Today is week 2 of our Acts series, and the story takes a sharp turn. In Judea, a message threatens to unravel everything the mission has accomplished. Not through violence or opposition, but through a claim from inside the church itself. "Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved."

What follows is the early church's most important debate. A dispute sharp enough to send Paul and Barnabas all the way to Jerusalem. A council of apostles and elders weighing testimony and Scripture together. Peter standing to say: I was there, I saw what God did, and God made no distinction between them and us. James opening the prophets to show that this was always where the story was heading. And a verdict that lands in Antioch like a breath of fresh air:

"We should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God."

Today's sermon, "Grace Greater Than Boundaries", traces that fight through Acts 14 and 15, asking the question underneath all of it: where have we quietly added conditions to a gift that was always free? Because the hardest part of grace isn't believing God is gracious to us. It's believing He is equally gracious to the people we've quietly decided don't quite qualify.



Wk 2 - "Grace Greater Than Boundaries."

TEXT: *Acts 14:1-15:35*

THEME: *"God's salvation is by grace alone through faith alone."*

BIG IDEA: *The gospel welcomes all people on the basis of God's grace, not human achievement — and the early church had to fight for that conviction before it could preach it.*

MY NOTES:

1. Testing The Question (Acts 14:1–20)

Acts 15:11 *"...we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus." (NLT)*

Bold doesn't always mean loud. Sometimes bold

means _____ when _____ would be easier.

Paul starts with _____ and harvest - the evidence of God already present in what people already _____.

MY NOTES:

2. The Return Nobody Had To Make (Acts 14:21–28)

Acts 14:22 *"...we must suffer many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God." (NLT)*

Some ministry only happens on the _____ journey.

They retrace every step not to _____ old conflicts, but to _____ what was started.

MY NOTES:

3. The Controversy (Acts 15:1–21)

Acts 15:8-9 "God confirmed that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit...He made no distinction between us and them,." (NLT)

We cannot make _____ for being
accepted by God, when He has already _____
that He makes no _____.

The hardest part of grace is believing God is
equally gracious to people I've quietly decided
don't _____.

James's verdict: we should **not** make it _____.
for the Gentiles who are _____ to God.

MY NOTES:

4. The Letter Brings Relief (Acts 15:22–35)

Acts 15:31 "And there was great joy throughout the church that day as they read this encouraging message." (NLT)

The letter removes _____ rather
than adding it.

The joy in Antioch is the joy of people hearing the
news is still _____ - without added
_____.

Today's question: *Where have I quietly added a
condition to a gift that was always free?*

One thing I will do differently this week:



ACTS TRIAD

Walk with 2 others through Acts together.

Ask these each week:

- What stood out?
- What challenged me?
- What will I do differently?
- Who can we pray for together?

My triad:

*

*

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Day 1 — Mon Aug 10
Acts 15:22–35

Day 2 — Tue Aug 11
Acts 15:36–41

Day 3 — Wed Aug 12
Acts 16:1–10

Day 4 — Thu Aug 13
Acts 16:11–15

Day 5 — Fri Aug 14
Acts 16:16–24

Day 6 — Sat Aug 15
Acts 16:25–34

Day 7 — Sun Aug 16
Acts 16:35–40

CONNECT GROUP & TRIAD DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Acts 15:1 — what would it feel like to receive it if you were one of the Gentile believers in Antioch? What is the modern equivalent of that message in Christian communities today?

2. Peter's argument in verses 7–11 is not a theological proposition — it's a testimony. Where in my own life do I have a testimony of what God has done that I don't use as often as I could?

3. Paul and Barnabas retrace the whole journey back through cities that stoned and expelled them. What does the return journey ask of us? Is there someone or somewhere God is asking you to return to?

4. James says 'we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.' Where might our community, or our own assumptions, be making it harder for someone to turn to Him?

5. When the letter is read in Antioch there is the joy of people who hear the news is still good, without conditions. When did I last feel that kind of joy about grace, not as a doctrine, but as something I personally received?

WEEK 2 CHALLENGE

Share your faith story with one person this week. Where you started, what shifted, where you are now.

I will share with:

UnhinderedChallenge #UHDC

www.crosscentral.com/unhindered