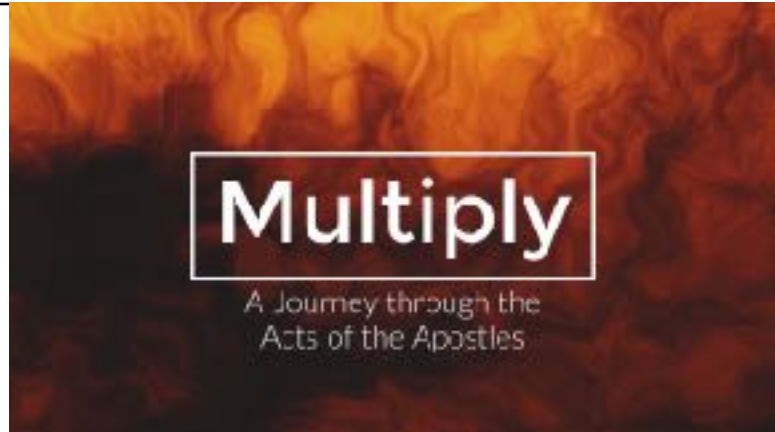

Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.
- [Include other notes about graphics or media during the service here]



Text highlighted in this way have a slide prepared to be on screen.

Text highlighted in this way are a reminder for Andrew during delivery.

Text highlighted in this way are direction for Andrew during delivery.

Key Questions

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about...

Why is this sermon important?

It is important because...

What is the good news?

The good news is...

What are the next action steps?

You are invited to...

What is the context of this sermon?

[Place, congregation, series information, time, current events, etc.]

What are other key takeaways?

For social media

- [text here]

Metadata

Topics

- Change Lives
- Make Disciples
- Share
- Share Christ

Sermon Books of the Bible

- Acts

Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference

Sermon Audio

9 a.m. Worship

11 a.m. Worship

Sermon Video



Introduction	5
Acts 15:6-11, CEB	
Response to Scripture	
Sermon Starter Video	
Opening Story - What is a weed?	6
Transition	
The Jerusalem Council - Chapter 15	6
Trouble at Antioch	
Paul and Barnabas Report to Jerusalem	
Application: How do we solve disagreements in our life?	
Peter: Saved in the Same Way	
Application: Look for what unites us	
Barnabas and Paul Describe God's Work among the Gentiles	
James' Summary of Next Steps	
Application: Agree on the essentials	
Letter to the Gentile believers - Chapter 15	7
Apostles and Elders Agree and Send Delegates to Antioch	
Text of the Letter	
Paul and Barnabas Share Delightful and Encouraging Message	
Paul and Barnabas part company - Chapter 15	8
Application: What is it like to lose people? How do we carry on our mission?	
Paul adds Timothy - Chapter 16	8
Application: What is it like to add people? How do we carry on our mission?	
Vision of the Macedonian - Chapter 16	9
Application: To whom is God calling us? How do we carry on our mission?	
Conclusion	9
Good News	
Call to Action	
Invitation	

7th Sunday of Easter / Ascension Sunday (White or Gold)

May 28, 2017

Multiply - A Journey through the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 15:6-11

Welcome for All

Preaching Target Word Count: 2,037

First United Methodist Church of El Dorado

Closing Prayer

Introduction

Acts 15:6-11, CEB

⁶The apostles and the elders gathered to consider this matter. ⁷After much debate, Peter stood and addressed them, “Fellow believers, you know that, early on, God chose me from among you as the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and come to believe. ⁸God, who knows people’s deepest thoughts and desires, confirmed this by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. ⁹He made no distinction between us and them, but purified their deepest thoughts and desires through faith. ¹⁰Why then are you now challenging God by placing a burden on the shoulders of these disciples that neither we nor our ancestors could bear? ¹¹On the contrary, we believe that we and they are saved in the same way, by the grace of the Lord Jesus.”

Response to Scripture

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.



Opening Story - What is a weed?

[Text here]

Transition

[Text here]

The Jerusalem Council - Chapter 15

Trouble at Antioch

¹Some people came down from Judea teaching the family of believers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom we’ve received from Moses, you can’t be saved.” ²Paul and Barnabas took sides against these Judeans and argued strongly against their position.

Paul and Barnabas Report to Jerusalem

The church at Antioch appointed Paul, Barnabas, and several others from Antioch to go up to Jerusalem to set this question before the apostles and the elders. ³The church sent this delegation on their way. They traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, telling stories about the conversion of the Gentiles to everyone. Their reports thrilled the brothers and sisters. ⁴When they arrived in Jerusalem, the church, the apostles, and the elders all welcomed them. They gave a full report of what God had accomplished through their activity. ⁵Some believers from among the Pharisees stood up and claimed, “The Gentiles must be circumcised. They must be required to keep the Law from Moses.”

Application: How do we solve disagreements in our life?

Peter: Saved in the Same Way

⁶The apostles and the elders gathered to consider this matter. ⁷After much debate, Peter stood and addressed them, “Fellow believers, you know that, early on, God chose me from among you as the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and come to believe. ⁸God, who knows people’s deepest thoughts and desires, confirmed this by **giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us.** ⁹**He made no distinction between us and them,** but purified their deepest thoughts and desires through faith. ¹⁰**Why then are you now challenging God by placing a burden on the shoulders of these disciples** that neither we nor our ancestors could bear? ¹¹**On the contrary, we believe that we and they are saved in the same way, by the grace of the Lord Jesus.”**

Application: Look for what unites us

Barnabas and Paul Describe God's Work among the Gentiles

¹²The entire assembly fell quiet as they listened to Barnabas and Paul describe all the signs and wonders God did among the Gentiles through their activity.

James' Summary of Next Steps

¹³When Barnabas and Paul also fell silent, James responded, "Fellow believers, listen to me. ¹⁴Simon reported how, in his kindness, God came to the Gentiles in the first place, to raise up from them a people of God. ¹⁵The prophets' words agree with this; as it is written,

¹⁶After this I will return,
and I will rebuild David's fallen tent;
I will rebuild what has been torn down.
I will restore it

¹⁷so that the rest of humanity will seek the Lord,
even all the Gentiles who belong to me.

The Lord says this, the one who does these things

¹⁸known from earliest times.

¹⁹"**Therefore, I conclude that we shouldn't create problems for Gentiles who turn to God.** ²⁰Instead, we should write a letter, telling them to avoid **the pollution associated with idols, sexual immorality, eating meat from strangled animals, and consuming blood.**

²¹After all, Moses has been proclaimed in every city for a long time, and is read aloud every Sabbath in every synagogue."

Application: Agree on the essentials

Letter to the Gentile believers - Chapter 15

Apostles and Elders Agree and Send Delegates to Antioch

²²The apostles and the elders, along with the entire church, agreed to send some delegates chosen from among themselves to Antioch, together with Paul and Barnabas. They selected Judas Barsabbas and Silas, who were leaders among the brothers and sisters. ²³They were to carry this letter:

Text of the Letter

The apostles and the elders, to the Gentile brothers and sisters in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia. Greetings! ²⁴We've heard that some of our number have disturbed you with unsettling words we didn't authorize. ²⁵We reached a united decision to select some delegates and send them to you along with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul.

²⁶These people have devoted their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁷Therefore, we are sending Judas and Silas. They will confirm what we have written.

²⁸The Holy Spirit has led us to the decision that no burden should be placed on you other than these essentials: ²⁹refuse food offered to idols, blood, the meat from strangled animals, and sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid such things. Farewell.

Paul and Barnabas Share Delightful and Encouraging Message

³⁰When Barnabas, Paul, and the delegates were sent on their way, they went down to Antioch. They gathered the believers and delivered the letter. ³¹The people read it, delighted with its encouraging message. ³²Judas and Silas were prophets, and they said many things that encouraged and strengthened the brothers and sisters. ³³Judas and Silas stayed there awhile, then were sent back with a blessing of peace from the brothers and sisters to those who first sent them.

³⁵Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, where, together with many others, they taught and proclaimed the good news of the Lord's word.

Paul and Barnabas part company - Chapter 15

³⁶Some time later, Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back and visit all the brothers and sisters in every city where we preached the Lord's word. Let's see how they are doing." ³⁷Barnabas wanted to take John Mark with them. ³⁸Paul insisted that they shouldn't take him along, since he had deserted them in Pamphylia and hadn't continued with them in their work. ³⁹**Their argument became so intense that they went their separate ways. Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus.** ⁴⁰Paul chose Silas and left, entrusted by the brothers and sisters to the Lord's grace. ⁴¹He traveled through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Application: What is it like to lose people? How do we carry on our mission?

Paul adds Timothy - Chapter 16

¹Paul reached Derbe, and then Lystra, where there was a disciple named Timothy. He was the son of a believing Jewish woman and a Greek father. ²The brothers and sisters in Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. ³Paul wanted to take Timothy with him, so he circumcised him. This was because of the Jews who lived in those areas, for they all knew Timothy's father was Greek. ⁴As Paul and his companions traveled through the cities, they instructed Gentile believers to keep the regulations put in place by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. ⁵**So the churches were strengthened in the faith and every day their numbers flourished.**

Application: What is it like to add people? How do we carry on our mission?

Vision of the Macedonian - Chapter 16

⁶Paul and his companions traveled throughout the regions of Phrygia and Galatia because the Holy Spirit kept them from speaking the word in the province of Asia.

⁷When they approached the province of Mysia, they tried to enter the province of Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus wouldn't let them. ⁸Passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas instead. ⁹**A vision of a man from Macedonia came to Paul during the night.**

He stood urging Paul, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" ¹⁰**Immediately after he saw the vision, we prepared to leave for the province of Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.**

Application: To whom is God calling us? How do we carry on our mission?

Conclusion

Good News

Call to Action

Invitation

Closing Prayer

Jesus, I am sorry for all the times in my life when I mess up.

And if anything comes to mind, ask God's forgiveness.

Forgive me of my sin and all that I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross and rose for me.

I trust you with my life.

Help me receive your forgiveness.

Please fill me with your Spirit and help me to follow you.

In your holy name, Amen.