Absolutely! Here's a **Bible Study Outline** on **Acts 15:1–35**, designed for adults. This passage covers the **Jerusalem Council**, a pivotal moment in early Church history regarding salvation and the role of the Mosaic Law.

## 📖 ****Bible Study Outline: Acts 15:1–35****

**Theme: Unity in the Gospel – Salvation by Grace, Not by Law**

### 📌 ****I. Introduction (5 min)****

* Briefly explain the context of Acts so far: The Gospel has spread to the Gentiles (Acts 10, Cornelius), and Paul and Barnabas have completed their first missionary journey (Acts 13–14).
* State the core issue: **Must Gentile believers obey the Law of Moses (especially circumcision) to be saved?**

### ✝️ ****II. Passage Breakdown & Commentary (30–35 min)****

#### ****A. The Dispute in Antioch (vv. 1–5)****

* **Key Verse:** “Unless you are circumcised… you cannot be saved.” (v. 1)
* Commentary: Some Jewish Christians insisted that salvation required adherence to the Mosaic Law. Paul and Barnabas opposed this, leading to the Jerusalem Council.
* **Point:** The early church faced its first major theological controversy—how to define the Gospel for all people.

#### ****B. The Council in Jerusalem (vv. 6–21)****

* **Peter’s Speech (vv. 7–11)**:
  + Emphasizes that God gave the Holy Spirit to Gentiles (Acts 10).
  + “We believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”
* **Paul and Barnabas Share (v. 12)**:
  + Recounted signs and wonders among Gentiles.
* **James’ Judgment (vv. 13–21)**:
  + Points to prophecy (Amos 9) as support that Gentiles are included in God's plan.
  + Recommends avoiding specific practices (idols, sexual immorality, etc.) for unity, not salvation.

#### ****C. The Letter to the Gentiles (vv. 22–29)****

* A letter is drafted summarizing the council’s decision and encouraging unity.
* The message: **Salvation is by grace alone**. Gentiles are not required to be circumcised but are urged to respect Jewish sensitivities.

#### ****D. Encouragement and Unity (vv. 30–35)****

* The church in Antioch receives the letter with joy.
* Judas and Silas encourage the believers.
* Paul and Barnabas continue teaching.

### 💬 ****III. Discussion Questions (20–25 min)****

1. **What does this passage teach us about the core of the Gospel?**
2. **Why do you think some early believers wanted to add rules to salvation?**
3. **How can churches today fall into the same trap of adding requirements for salvation?**
4. **What role did unity play in the Council’s decision?**
5. **Why were Gentiles still encouraged to abstain from certain things if salvation is by grace?**
6. **How should Christians handle disagreements over doctrine today? What can we learn from this council?**

### 🛠 ****IV. Activities & Application (20–25 min)****

#### ****A. Group Activity: “Essentials vs. Non-Essentials”****

* Provide a list of beliefs/practices (e.g., Baptism, church attendance, music styles, Bible translations, fasting, etc.).
* As a group, categorize them as:
  + Essential for salvation
  + Important for growth
  + Cultural preferences
* **Goal:** Distinguish between Gospel essentials and church traditions or opinions.

#### ****B. Role Play: The Council****

* Break the group into smaller teams:
  + Team 1: Jewish believers who advocate for circumcision.
  + Team 2: Paul & Barnabas defending grace.
  + Team 3: Jerusalem leaders making a final decision.
* Have them role-play the council with Scripture support.
* Debrief by discussing what it felt like to be in each position.

#### ****C. Personal Reflection & Prayer****

* Have each participant write down one tradition or personal expectation they’ve seen added to the Gospel (in church or personal faith).
* Pray for humility and clarity to keep the Gospel central in our lives and communities.

### 📚 ****V. Summary & Takeaway (5 min)****

* The early church confirmed: **Salvation is by grace through faith—not by works of the Law**.
* Unity and cultural sensitivity matter—but they must never override the truth of the Gospel.
* We are called to guard the truth of the Gospel while seeking peace and understanding within the body of Christ.

Would you like this as a printable handout or PowerPoint format as well?