Here is a revised, more professional and adult-focused version of your document, maintaining the original structure but improving tone, clarity, and engagement for a mature audience:

**Salvation by Grace, Not Law**  
**A Study of Acts 15:1–35**  
**Duration: ~70 minutes**

### ****Intended Audience****

This Bible study is designed for college-aged adults and older. It assumes participants have a foundational understanding of God's grace, salvation, and the core teachings of the Christian faith. The content will explore how to navigate doctrinal disagreements with both biblical integrity and spiritual maturity.

### ****Objective****

Participants will learn how early Christians addressed false teachings, and how believers today can respond to doctrinal disputes with scriptural wisdom, grace, humility, and unity. The session will emphasize the importance of sound doctrine and Christian discernment in presenting the Gospel and in interpersonal dialogue within the body of Christ.

### ****Hook (5 min)****

Begin by asking:  
**Have you ever disagreed with another believer about a matter of faith or doctrine?**  
Such disagreements can become intense and emotionally charged. Acts 15:1–35 offers a powerful example of how the early Church handled these disputes—by seeking truth, pursuing unity, and responding with humility. As we study this passage, reflect on this question:

Must Gentile believers adhere to the Mosaic Law to be saved?

### ****Book (35 min)****

#### ****Background Context: Acts 10 and Beyond****

Before diving into Acts 15, we must understand the broader narrative. In Acts 10, Cornelius—a Roman centurion—is visited by an angel and instructed to seek out the Apostle Peter. At the same time, Peter receives a vision from God declaring that the barriers between Jew and Gentile have been abolished. This moment marked a pivotal shift: the Gospel was for all people, and ritual purity laws (such as dietary restrictions) no longer defined one’s standing with God.

#### ****Acts 15 – The Council at Jerusalem****

Acts 15 opens in Antioch, where Gentile believers are confronted by certain individuals from Judea—former Pharisees—who assert that salvation requires adherence to the Law of Moses, including circumcision. Paul and Barnabas strongly opposed this teaching but chose not to settle the matter locally. Instead, they traveled to Jerusalem to seek wisdom from the apostles and elders—modeling a Christ-centered approach to conflict resolution.

#### ****Key Arguments at the Council****

* **Peter’s Testimony** (v.10): “Why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear?” He reminded them that even the Jewish people could not fulfill the Law in its entirety.
* **Peter’s Affirmation of Grace** (v.8–9): God, who knows the heart, gave the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles just as He did to the Jews. God made no distinction, purifying their hearts by faith—not law.
* **James’ Confirmation** (v.15–18): James quoted from Amos 9:11–12, affirming that the inclusion of Gentiles was always part of God’s redemptive plan.

The council responded not with division, but with unity. They concluded that imposing the full Mosaic Law on Gentiles was inconsistent with the Gospel of grace. A letter was drafted to communicate their decision, requiring Gentile believers to abstain from a few specific practices (idolatry, sexual immorality, eating blood or strangled animals)—not for salvation, but to promote unity and sensitivity within the diverse Christian community.

### ****Look (Discussion – 35 min)****

#### ****Reflection Questions****

* How has this passage shaped your understanding of the requirements for salvation?
* Do you see examples today where churches add unbiblical conditions to salvation?
* How can we differentiate between biblical commands and church traditions?

#### ****Activity****

**Group Exercise: Is it Requirement or Tradition?**  
Discuss the following items and classify them as either essential for salvation or as traditions/practices. Provide scriptural reasoning where possible.

* Baptism
* Church Attendance
* Bible Translation
* Worship Style (e.g., instrumental vs. a cappella)
* Fasting
* Prayer
* Evangelism
* Communion (Lord’s Supper)

Encourage participants to approach each topic with both conviction and humility, acknowledging the diversity of Christian practice and tradition.

### ****Took (5 min Wrap-Up)****

#### ****Final Reflections****

As we conclude, consider these two takeaways:

* What does this passage reveal about the nature of the Gospel?
* How should Christians today respond to doctrinal disagreements?

Encourage the group to pray throughout the week for:

* **Humility** — to listen and speak with grace.
* **Discernment** — to recognize truth and error.
* **Unity** — to pursue peace without compromising the Gospel.