

UNSTOPPABLE UNSTOPPABLE

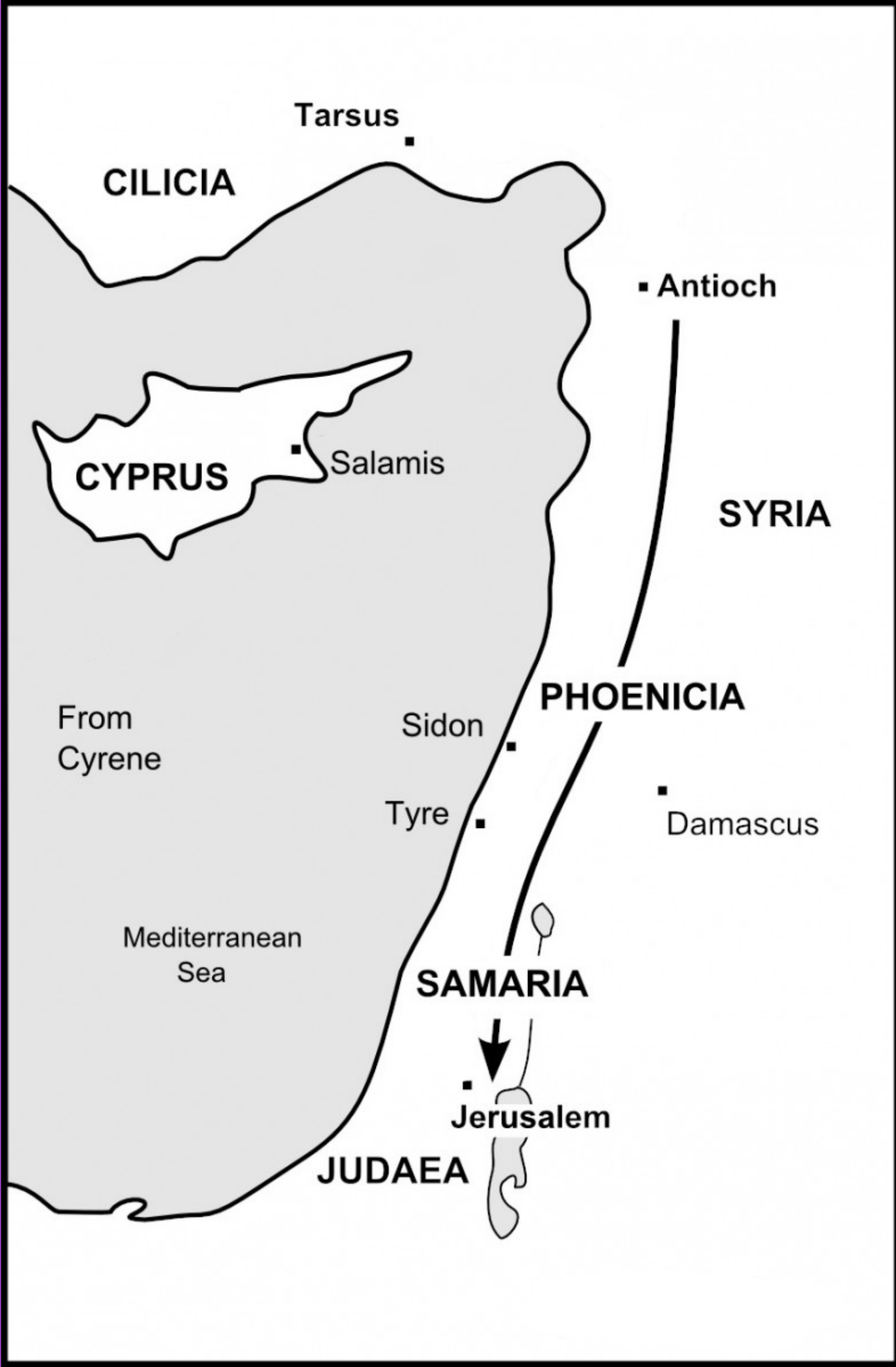
SEASON 4

A message series about
making disciples then and now.



**THE JERUSALEM
COUNCIL**
THE TIPPING POINT





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Acts 15

Certain people came down from **Judea to Antioch** and were teaching the believers: **“Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.”** ² This brought **Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them.** So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to **go up to Jerusalem** to see the apostles and elders about this question.

Acts 15


³ The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they **told how the Gentiles had been converted**. This news made all the believers very glad.

Acts 15


⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them. ⁵ Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “**The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.**”


Acts 15 (Peter Speaks)

⁶ The apostles and elders met to consider this question. ⁷ After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that **some time ago God made a choice among you** that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. ⁸ **God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.** ⁹ He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.




Acts 10 ²⁸ He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean.”





Acts 15 ¹⁰ Now then, 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?** ¹¹ **No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”**





Paul / Barnabas
Speaks

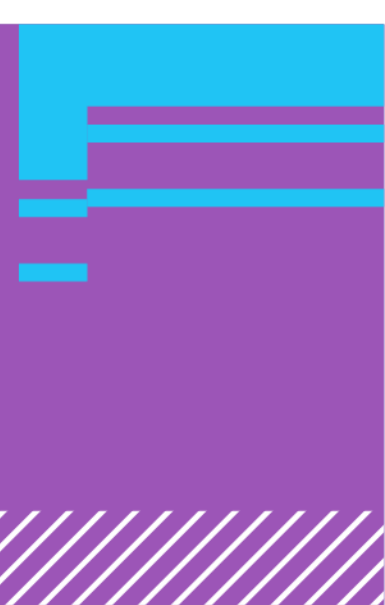
Acts 15 ¹² The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the **signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them**





James Speaks

Acts 15 ¹³ When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me. ¹⁴ Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles.



Acts 15 (James Speak)

¹⁵ The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

¹⁶ “After this I will return
and rebuild David’s fallen tent.
Its ruins I will rebuild,
and I will restore it,

¹⁷ that the rest of mankind may seek
the Lord,

even all the Gentiles who bear
my name,
says the Lord, who does these things’
— ¹⁸ things known from long ago.



James Speaks

Acts 15 ¹⁹ “It is my judgment, therefore, that **we should not make it difficult** for the Gentiles who are turning to God



Acts 15

²⁰ Instead we should write to them, telling them to **abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.**

²¹ For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”



Law of LOVE
Jesus version

Jn 13 ³⁴ “A new command I give you: **Love one another. As I have loved you**, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”





Law of LOVE
James version

James 2 ⁸ If you really keep the **royal law found in Scripture,**
“Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right



Law of LOVE Paul's version

1 Cor 9

¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.

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Law of LOVE Paul's version

1 Cor 9

²¹ **To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.**

²² **To the weak I became weak, to win the weak.** I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.



What do we learn

- We are saved by Grace through faith
 - We live with the Law of LOVE
 - “What does love require me to do?”
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Acts 16⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

