



Catholic Central Activity Guide

Episode 55: Church History in 5 Moments

Diving Deeper

- ▶ Can you change but still stay the same? As the Body of Christ on Earth, how has the Church's ability to "change but still same the same" helped her to respond to the changing needs of humanity through the last two millennia?
- ▶ How do Scripture, Tradition, and reason work together to help the Catholic Church address contemporary issues and stay close to her mission? What might happen to the Church's decision-making ability if she were missing Tradition (wisdom from history, guided by the Holy Spirit, a living chain stretching back to Jesus)? What might happen to the Church's decision-making ability if she were missing reason (a God-given ability to use our minds to make logical sense of the world around us)?
- ▶ What are some new issues in our time to which the Church might need to respond?

Go Forth

- ▶ Open your Bible to Acts 15, and read about the Council of Jerusalem in 50 A.D. Consider the apostles' concerns about current issues of their time. How did they address questions of circumcision, Jewish law, and Gentiles becoming Christian? [Optional: Compare the Council of Jerusalem with the more recent Second Vatican Council, or Vatican II. Were they addressing the same issues? Was the format of each Council similar or different? How were the conclusions of each Council communicated with the rest of the Church? Did the Councils share a common purpose for the mission of the Church?]
- ▶ Research a saint or Catholic leader from a moment of great change in the Church: Post-Resurrection (33 A.D. - 350 A.D.), Post-Constantine (313 A.D. - 1400 A.D.), Post-Reformation (1519 A.D. - 1700 A.D.), Post-Enlightenment (1620 A.D. - 1815 A.D.), or The Contemporary Church (1959 A.D. - Today). What was their motivation? How did they move the Church closer to her mission? How were they perceived by others at the time of their work? How are they seen today? What can we learn from their work in the Church and in the world?



Resources

- ▶ [Council of Jerusalem: Acts 15](#)
- ▶ [Catholic Answers: The 21 Ecumenical Councils](#)
- ▶ [Catholic News Service: The ABCs of Ecumenical Councils: What Are They? What Do They Do?](#)
- ▶ [Second Vatican Council: Concluding Documents](#)

