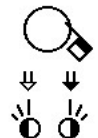


















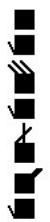










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Chapter 15. While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers: "Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved." Verse 2. Paul and Barnabas disagreed with them, arguing vehemently. Finally, the church

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decided to send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem, Accompanied by some local believers, to talk to the apostles and elders about this question. Verse 3. The church sent the delegates to Jerusalem, and they stopped along the way in Phoenicia and Samaria to visit the believers. They told them --





























































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much to everyone's joy -- that the Gentiles, too, were being converted. Verse 4. When they arrived in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul were welcomed by the whole church, including the apostles and elders. They reported everything God had done through them. Verse 5. But then some of the believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and insisted, NLT

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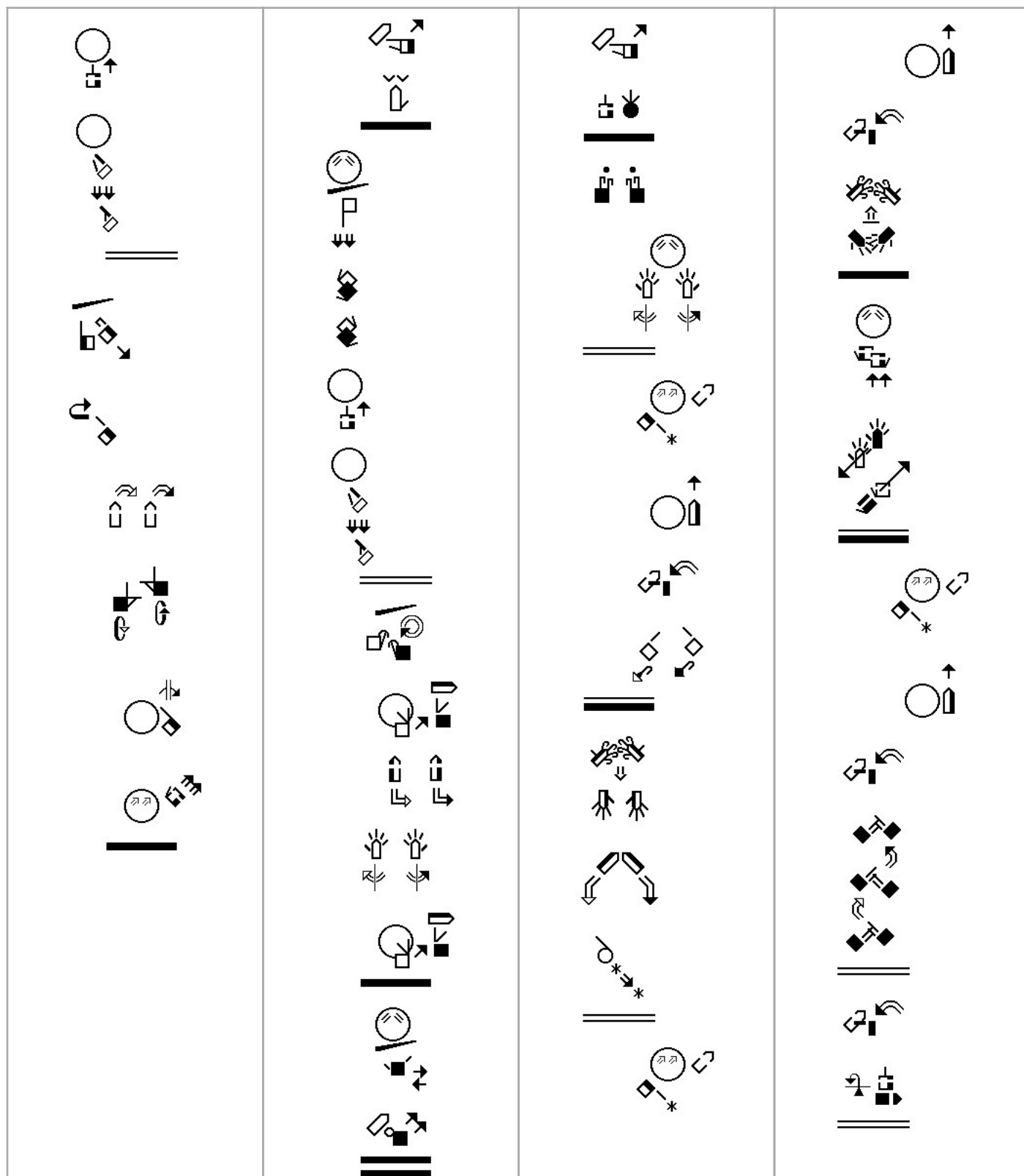
253 from among you some time ago to preach to the Gentiles so that they could hear the Good News and believe. Verse 8. God knows people's hearts, and he confirmed that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. Verse 9. He made no distinction between us and them, for he cleansed their hearts through faith. NLT

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Verse 12. Everyone listened quietly as Barnabas and Paul told about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. Verse 13. When they had finished, James stood and said, "Brothers, listen to me. Verse 14. Peter has told you about the time God first visited

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the Gentiles to take from them a people for himself. Verse 15. And this conversion of Gentiles is exactly what the prophets predicted. As it is written: Verse 16. 'Afterward I will return and restore the fallen house of David. I will rebuild its ruins and restore it, NLT

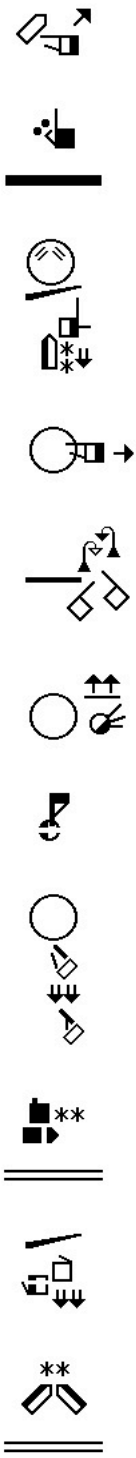
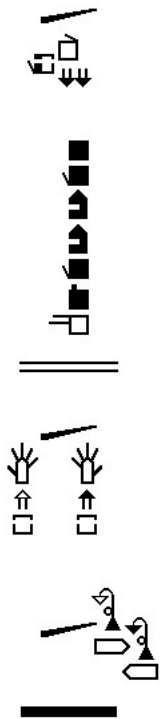

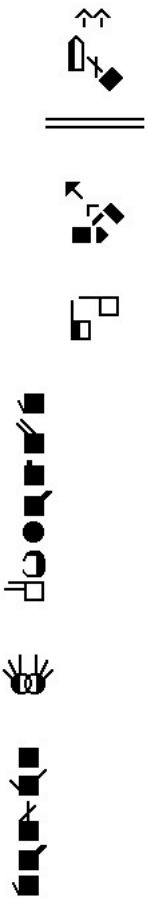
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Verse 17. so that the rest of humanity might seek the LORD, including the Gentiles -- all those I have called to be mine. The LORD has spoken -- Verse 18. he who made these things known so long ago.' Verse 19. "And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for

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the Gentiles who are turning to God. Verse 20. Instead, we should write and tell them to abstain from eating food offered to idols, from sexual immorality, from eating the meat of strangled animals, and from consuming blood.

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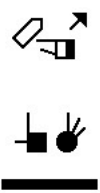


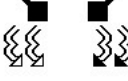
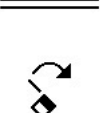

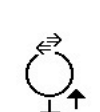
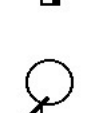


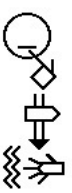


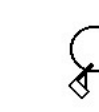










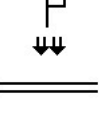

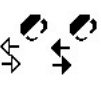










with Paul and Barnabas to report on this decision. The men chosen were two of the church leaders -- Judas (also called Barsabbas) and Silas. Verse 23. This is the letter they took with them: "This letter is from the apostles and elders, your brothers in Jerusalem. It is written to the Gentile

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believers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia. Greetings! Verse 24. "We understand that some men from here have troubled you and upset you with their teaching, but we did not send them! Verse 25. So we decided, having come to complete agreement, to send you official representatives,

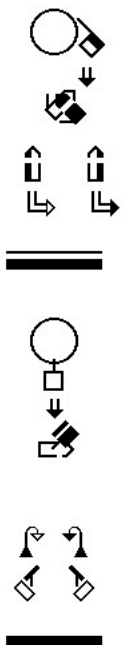
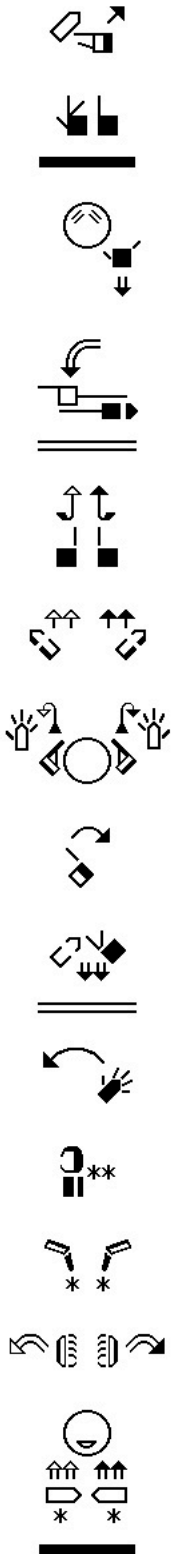
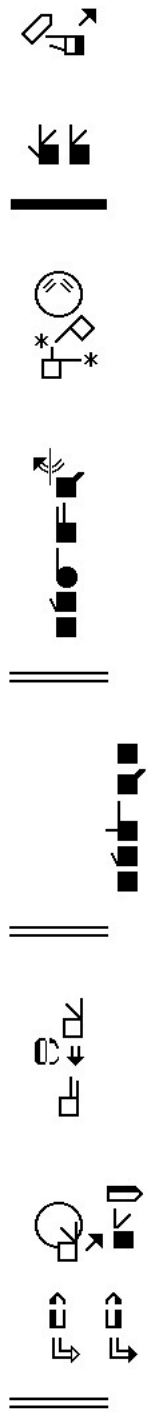
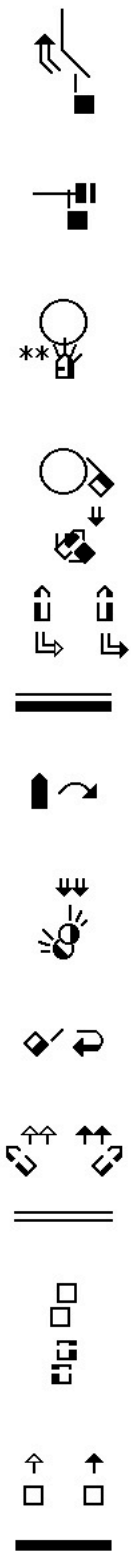
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along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Verse 26. who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Verse 27. We are sending Judas and Silas to confirm what we have decided concerning your question. Verse 28. "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no greater burden on you than these few requirements: NLT

         	        	        	        
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










































Verse 29. You must abstain from eating food offered to idols, from consuming blood or the meat of strangled animals, and from sexual immorality. If you do this, you will do well. Farewell." Verse 30. The messengers went at once to Antioch, where they called a general meeting

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of the believers and delivered the letter. Verse 31. And there was great joy throughout the church that day as they read this encouraging message. Verse 32. Then Judas and Silas, both being prophets, spoke at length to the believers, encouraging and strengthening their faith.

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Verse 33. They stayed for a while, and then the believers sent them back to the church in Jerusalem with a blessing of peace. (*note - no Acts15v34 in NLT) Verse 35. Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch. They and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord there.

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Verse 36. After some time Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back and visit each city where we previously preached the word of the Lord, to see how the new believers are doing."
 Verse 37. Barnabas agreed and wanted to take along John Mark. Verse 38. But Paul disagreed strongly, since

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John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in their work. Verse 39. Their disagreement was so sharp that they separated. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus. Verse 40. Paul chose Silas, and as he left, the believers entrusted him

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