

Sermon Discussion Guide:

# Agreeing to Disagree

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Scripture: **Acts 15:36–41**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

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## OVERVIEW

Clark Griswold of National Lampoon's *Vacation* film series is known for humorously persevering through incredible adversity to realize his plans. His endurance in the pursuit of selfish goals knew no bounds, and his exaggerated adventures can prompt us to consider whether we respond to disrupted plans with arrogance or humility. The believer should strive to make plans, but trust God and prepare to submit as He reveals His perfect will. **Jesus gives us the grace to persevere in the midst of uncertainty.**

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## CORROBORATING TEXTS

Proverbs 19:21, James 4:13-16, Acts 12:25, Acts 13:13, Colossians 4:10, 2 Timothy 4:11, Hebrews 12:1-2

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What makes Clark Griswold's character so funny? When you persevere in similar ways, is it just as funny? Why or why not?
2. What was the plan, the disruption, and the graceful resolution depicted in this week's passage and corroborating texts?
3. Why might God have revealed this embarrassing conflict between key leaders of the early church? Why do you suppose He doesn't make clear who was "right" and precisely what was said between the opposing sides? What might this communicate about what is important and not important in our conflicts?
4. What five practical steps did Pastor Joe share for faithfully making and adjusting plans? [*1: know your purpose, 2: make your plans, 3: trust the Lord, 4: embrace the change, 5: follow Jesus moving forward*]
5. Following Jesus often means doing hard things and persevering through obstacles, as well as sensing the Spirit's direction and submitting to His will. How do you discern when to push forward and when the "closed door" means to abandon your plan?