

# ACTS

LIVING ON MISSION

Acts 19:8-20

April 7, 2024

## BELONG

Get to Know One Another

Has there been a time that you wanted to grow spiritually, but you didn't seem to have the power to do it?

## BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

*It has been a couple of weeks since we were in Acts* - we covered the last of **chapter 18** and the very beginning of **19**. We read that Paul returned to Antioch before his trip to Ephesus. This marked the beginning of his third and final missionary journey. *In our time today*, we're going to cover the middle of **Chapter 19**. We're going to see Paul continuing to teach the Word [along with his disciples] in Ephesus. In the city of Ephesus, we are going to read that God's Word is taught and repentance of sin happens as a result. This revival changes the economic climate of the city, as they had previously relied on magic to provide prosperity and health. As a result of the gospel, the people determine to rid themselves of these "resources."

**Question 1:** What kinds of things do we rely on to bring about our own prosperity and health?

## BUILD

Engage the Scripture

Have someone in your group read **Acts 19:8-10**

**Question 2:** In what ways is Paul's experience in Ephesus similar to his experiences in Corinth?

- How long does he continue his ministry in Ephesus and the surrounding area? [**Acts 19:8-10**]
- What do you think is different for Paul now - in Ephesus - compared to his previous stops?

**Question 3:** **Acts 19:8-10** describes to us that disciple making is a long-term commitment. For 2 years, Paul taught the Word so that "all the residents of Asia heard the Word".

- Based on what we learned in these verses, what does Luke want us to see is absolutely **ESSENTIAL** in discipleship?
- What does discipleship look like in your life - *are you investing in someone daily* - **with the Scripture** - to see them mature in Christ?

Have someone in your group read **Acts 19:11-13**

**Question 4:** In **Acts 19:11-13**, explain how Paul's exposition of the Scriptures impacted Ephesus.

- What were some of the miracles that appear in **Acts 19:11-12**.
- Do you think Paul's miracles validated his teaching of the gospel in Ephesus? How?
- In **Acts 19:13**, what were some of the misapplications of these miracles?

Have someone in your group read [Acts 19:14-16](#)

**Question 5:** Who are we introduced to in [Acts 19:14-17](#)? [*seven sons of Sceva*]

- What were they attempting to do - what was their “job”? [*they were Jewish itinerant exorcists*]
- What misunderstanding do they have about using the power of God?
- How does Luke’s account of the sons of Sceva apply to the church today?
  - Is the church more like Paul or the sons of Sceva?
- Today, do you think that evil spirits recognize that God - as He was working through Paul - is working through the church?

**Question 6:** Can we distinguish between genuine spiritual authority and counterfeit claims, as illustrated in the case of the sons of Sceva? How?

Have someone in your group read [Acts 19:17-20](#)

**Question 7:** In [verses 17-20](#), we read that the people of Ephesus take notice of the failed exorcism. Based on these verses, what were the reactions of the people? [*fear of God, confession, praise toward God, repentance, costly sacrifice, humility, belief in Jesus, evangelism*]

- What was the result - or what did the people do as a result? [*burned their books*]
- What was the value of these books?

**Question 8:** Seeing that the power of God was stronger than any magic, we read about the drastic measures the believers in Ephesus took to get rid of their magic.

- What actions - even drastic ones - are we taking to get rid of “things” that keep us from seeing the power of God in our own lives?

## BEGIN

Response and Prayer

**How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?**

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Blue Letter Bible:** [Acts 19](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.



**Precept Austin:** [Acts 19](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.

