

ACTS

LIVING ON MISSION

Acts 19:21-41

April 14, 2024

BELONG

Get to Know One Another

What's the one rule your parents ALWAYS enforced when you were a kid?

BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

This week we finish up Acts 19. In this section, we see a very different response than what we saw last week when Paul presented the gospel and idols were destroyed. This week - the primary emotions are in the form of a riot stirred up by the Ephesian craftsmen [idol makers] who are a little upset at how the gospel has negatively impacted the religious, cultural and economic lives of the Ephesians. These craftsmen are threatened by the gospels growing power and they retaliate against Paul and his disciples through mob violence.

Question 1: How would you define an idol?

- Does our culture still worship idols? Which ones?

BUILD

Engage the Scripture

Have someone in your group read **Acts 19:21-22**

Question 2: In **Acts 19:21**, what did "the Spirit" purpose for Paul to do next? [*to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem*]

- Where was he intending to go? [*Rome*]

Have someone in your group read **Acts 19:23-27**

Question 3: We meet a new character – who is in opposition to the Way - in **Acts 19:23-24**. Who is he and what is his job? [*Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis*]

- Was this business “profitable” in Ephesus? [*yes*]
- What does Scripture teach about idol making?

Have someone in your group read **Isaiah 44:9-20**

Question 4: Who does Isaiah mock in this passage?

- How does he describe the material used by the craftsmen? [*the wood was used to make an idol and to burn in the fire for warmth and to cook dinner.*]
- What is the “folly” in the craftsman’s work? [*The craftsman should realize that the wood he had to harvest – has 2 purposes: to carve part of it into an idol and the other to burn. Instead of worshiping God - who is able to save – the craftsman would rather turn to a god that is more to his liking, even if this god is in fact no god at all.*]

Question 5: *Transitioning back to Acts 19*, is Demetrius more concerned with his eternity or his wealth? [*his wealth*]

- Do you think this conflict – wealth or eternity – still affects people today? Give examples.

Question 6: As we reach **verse 27**, we are not only seeing that the cost of the Ephesians burning books [last week] but now we are seeing the religious, economic and cultural impact that Christianity is having on the craftsmen.

- How is First Baptist making an impact in Portland through the gospel?

Have someone in your group read **Acts 19:28-41**

Question 7: The riot's foundational cause was anger, rage, and hate of Paul's message because it impacted the craftsmen's trade. Do you think that our culture reacts different to Christianity and the church today?

- Or, does our culture react exactly the same? How?

Question 8: How do the other craftsmen react to Demetrius' speech in **Acts 19:28**?

- Were most of the people in the mob truly mad at Paul?
- What is the result of their rally cries throughout the city in **Acts 19:29 and 19:32**?

Question 9: What was the one thing the crowd DID agree on in **Acts 19:34**? [*"Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"*]

Question 10: In **verses 35-41**, did God direct the events after riot in Ephesus? [*yes*]

- In what ways? [*the words of the town clerk; the reminder of the town clerk; dismissal of crowd*]
- Do you think that God still operates in the lives of the church today in similar kinds of ways?

BEGIN

Response and Prayer

Consider how the gospel confronts idols in our own lives and in the lives of those around us. What idols has today's Scripture revealed in your life?

- 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.

