

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 07.04.2021

ACTIVATE YOUR FAITH – ACTS 19:1-20

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Ephesus was the "vanity fair" of Asia Minor. Ephesus was the city of great Trade centers of Asia Minor. But not only was it the most magnificent, it was the most Corrupt city was well. Its most reputable honor was its Temple to Diana (Artemis). The idol in the Temple supposedly fell from heaven (falling star). Upon it were inscribed symbolic characters representing spirits of great 'powers' (demons). While in Ephesus Paul came across 12 "Talmidim"(students or disciples) who had no connection with the Church there. Like Apollos (in the previous chapter) they had only heard of John the Baptist message of Repentance and to prepare for the Messiah to come. They did not know Jesus yet! They had not been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus the Messiah. Their belief was incomplete. Note that Paul did not degrade their incomplete faith. Messiah had come! When these 12 heard about the Mission of Jesus as the sin bearer they Believed, and were baptized in the name of Jesus and received the Holy Spirit. Let's get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion:

1. What struck you or stood out to you from this week's sermon in Acts 19?
2. Other than Christianity, what religions or spiritual belief systems are prevalent in our community?
3. What situations make people seek spiritual answers in life? What does that reveal about humanity?

## Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 16:1-7

1. Of whom do you think these people were disciples? Why wouldn't they have received the Holy Spirit?
2. What is the difference between John's baptism and the baptism they experienced as Paul laid hands on them?
3. Why hadn't the Holy Spirit indwelt the disciples before they were baptized in Jesus' name?
4. What happened to these disciples next – 19:6? (Think: Where else have similar events occurred, and what do we learn about how people received miraculous powers?)

The disciples Paul met were disciples of John the Baptist. Most likely, they had heard John the Baptist preach repentance, had believed his message, and were baptized. After that, they may have moved back to Corinth and possibly had not even heard the gospel of Christ. They certainly had not heard anything since the Holy Spirit filled the church on the day of Pentecost.

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 19:8-12

1. Where did Paul teach, how long, and what did he teach – 19:8?

## Visitation/Restoration in 2021

2. Why did he leave, and where did he go – 19:9? (What did Pasto Ray say about trying to teach those who will not listen?)
3. What was the effect of his work – 19:10?
4. Describe the miracles he did – 19:11,12. (Did the handkerchiefs heal people? Why or why not?)

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 19:13-20

1. What did certain Jews try to do and by what authority – 19:13?
2. What men in particular tried this, and what did the demon say – 19:14,15?
3. Describe the treatment these men were given by the demon-possessed man – 19:16. (Think: What does this show about true miracles?)

**Application:** Are there people today who falsely claim to act in Jesus' name? Explain and give examples.

5. What effect did this have on the people – 19:17? (Think: Why would such an event have this effect?)
6. What was done by many people who practiced magic – 19:18,19?
7. Define "magic" as used here, and give two other passages about magic, witchcraft, sorcery, etc.

There were some very Special and Unusual Miracles the Lord did there in Ephesus. The manifestations of supernatural power were far more potent than had ever been witnessed in Ephesus and were of such character they could not be imitated by the local witches, warlocks or sorcerers. It appears that Ephesus was a hotbed of the occult, including all forms of Spiritism, magic, superstition, and the black arts. From all evidence the spectacular was necessary in order to get through to this people.

#### Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

**Pastor Ray stated "Make Sure You Know Jesus Christ Personally When Dealing With The Supernatural. False Prophets will be exposed. Exorcists were common then and even now. They made a living off the superstitions and fears of people. Their motive is not Love. They do it for money, for Greed. Note the demon knew Jesus and recognized His power, and he knew Paul, but not them! Yikes! The Ephesians burned all their occult books and items. You also should get rid of any occult or demonic stuff from your house, clean it out and don't give the devil a foothold in your life."**

1. Why did they burn the books? What can we learn about repentance?
2. How are you going to activate your faith today and this week?
3. Have each member make an "I will statement" from this lesson. "Express what the Lord has impressed on their heart to obey. Who will you share this with this week?"

PRAYER - Pray that you will take advantage of opportunities to witness to the people God places in your lives.

*"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!" Is. 14:12*