

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 50 – Paul in Ephesus - [Acts 19:1-22](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

Paul in Ephesus

1Now while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul had traveled the mountain route through the interior of the province of Asia, finally arriving at Ephesus, where he found some of the Lord’s followers.

2“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you were converted and became followers of the Lord?” he asked them.

“No,” they replied, “we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

3“Well, what then did you profess to believe when you were baptized?” he inquired.

“What John the Baptizer taught,” they responded.

4“John’s baptism did, of course, give testimony to God and others that the one being baptized was turning from his sinning,” Paul stated. “But John also told the people to believe in the One who would come after him. He was talking about Jesus, the Messiah.”

5When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6And when Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they began to speak in other languages and to prophesy.

7There were about twelve of them.

8Then Paul went into the synagogue, where for three months he spoke out boldly, continually reasoning with them and trying to convince them of the truths about the Kingdom of God.

9But when some became completely stuck in the rut of their error and utterly refused to obey the truth, so that they publicly ridiculed the Way of the Lord, he left them. But he took those who believed with him, and taught them every day in the school of Tyrannus.

10This went on for two years, so that everyone living in the province of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the message of the Lord Jesus.

The Sons of Sceva

11And during this time, God was working unusual miracles through Paul.

12Even when handkerchiefs and aprons that Paul had handled were brought to the sick, they were cured of their diseases, and the evil spirits went out of them.

13Then some Jews who traveled about driving out evil spirits decided to use the name of Jesus over those possessed by demons, so they were saying, “We command you to come out of him in the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches about.”

14Seven brothers, the sons of a Jewish chief priest named Sceva, were doing this.

15But when they gave this command to the spirit in a certain man, the evil spirit answered, “I know Jesus, and I know about Paul, but you, who are you?”

16Then the man possessed by the evil spirit jumped on them, and attacked them so fiercely that he overpowered them. They were beaten so badly that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

17Everyone in Ephesus heard about it, both Jews and Greeks, and they were all frightened. As a result, the name of the Lord Jesus came to be most highly respected.

18And many who had come to believe, now came forward, one after another, confessing their sins and revealing the evil lives they had lived.

19Also, many who had practiced black magic brought their books* together and burned them in public. When they figured up the cost of all these books, they found the total came to 50,000 silver coins!

Acts 19:19 – “Brought their books.” Refers to books that contained spells, charms, and magical formulas.

20So the message of the Lord continued to go everywhere, with power that continued to conquer.

21Right after all this happened, Paul decided to leave and go through both northern and southern Greece, and then to Jerusalem. “After I’ve been there,” Paul said, “I must also visit Rome.”

22But Paul stayed a while longer in the province of Asia, although he sent two of his assistants, Timothy and Erastus, into northern Greece.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 50 – Paul in Ephesus - [Acts 19:1-22](#)

746. While Apollos ministered at Corinth, where did Paul go? ([19:1](#))

747. What did Paul ask the disciples at Ephesus? ([19:2](#))

748. How did the group respond to Paul? ([19:2](#))
749. What was the significance of John's baptism? ([19:3-4](#))
750. Why were the disciples rebaptized? ([19:5](#))
751. How did the Spirit come on the disciples? ([19:6](#))
752. Who received the Holy Spirit? ([19:7](#))
753. How long did Paul speak at the synagogue before confronting trouble? ([19:8](#))
754. Why did Paul stop speaking at the synagogue? ([19:9](#))
755. From his new base of operations, how long did Paul spend spreading the Word of the Lord? ([19:10](#))
756. What extraordinary events happened during this time? ([19:11-16](#))
757. Why did people both fear and praise Jesus? ([19:17](#))
758. How did faith in Christ change the Ephesians? ([19:18-19](#))
759. What practices did the Ephesians give up? ([19:18-19](#))
760. What happened to the spread of Christianity? ([19:20](#))
761. After Ephesus, what was on Paul's itinerary? ([19:21-22](#))

Lesson 51 - The Riot in Ephesus - [Acts 19:23-41](#)

The Riot in Ephesus

²³About this time, a great disturbance erupted in Ephesus as a result of the Christian advance.

²⁴The man who started it all was Demetrius, a silversmith who made miniature silver shrine models of the temple of the Ephesian goddess Artemis. The profit made by these craftsmen was no small amount.

²⁵Demetrius called the silversmiths together, along with those in related trades, and said: "Men, you all know that we can continue to make good money only if we can continue to make and sell these shrines.

²⁶"And you've all seen and heard what this fellow Paul has done, how he's preached, not only here in Ephesus, but throughout almost all of Asia. He's

persuading and convincing vast numbers of people that gods made by human hands are not gods at all!

27“So not only is our trade in danger of becoming despised, but also the people will come to consider the temple of the great goddess Artemis as worthless. In that event, even Artemis, whom all in Asia and the world worship, will be stripped of all her glory!”

28And when they heard these sayings, the men gathered there became furious, and began furiously shouting,* “Great is Artemis, the goddess of the Ephesians! Great is Artemis, the goddess of the Ephesians!”

Acts 19:28 – “Began furiously shouting.*” Continuous shouting, indicated by imperfect tense.

29This threw the whole city into an uproar, until the people made one mad rush for the theater, dragging along with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul’s traveling companions from northern Greece.

30When Paul wanted to go in and speak to the people, the Lord’s followers wouldn’t let him.

31Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent word to him begging him not to venture into the theater.

32Meanwhile inside, they kept on shouting, some one thing, some another. The whole place was in an uproar. In fact, most of the people didn’t even know what the meeting was all about.

33Finally, the Jews brought Alexander out of the crowd and pushed him forward. He put up his hand, motioning for silence, as he wished to present his defense before the people.

34But when the crowd realized he was a Jew, they all began shouting in unison, “Great is Artemis, the goddess of the Ephesians!” And they continued shouting this for about two hours.

35When the city clerk was finally able to calm the crowd, he said, “People of Ephesus, who doesn’t know that the city of the Ephesians is the guardian of the temple of the great goddess Artemis, and of her image which fell down from Zeus?”

36“Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you must calm down so you don’t take some foolhardy action.

37“These men you have brought here are neither temple thieves nor have they heaped abuse on your goddess with foul language and cursing.

38“If Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are judges. Let them bring their accusations there.

39“If other matters need attention, they must be settled in a legal assembly.

40“Because we are in danger of being accused by the Roman government of starting a riot as a result of today’s uproar. And there’s no good reason we can give for this disorderly gathering.”

41When he finished speaking, he dismissed the meeting.

DISCUSSIONS QUESTIONS

Lesson 51 - The Riot in Ephesus - [Acts 19:23-41](#)

- 762. To whom does "the Way" refer? ([19:23](#))
- 763. Who was the ringleader against Paul and the Christians? ([19:24](#))
- 764. On what basis did Artemis make a case against those of the Way? ([19:25-27](#))
- 765. To what group did the silversmith present his case? ([19:24-25](#))
- 766. Why did the silversmith’s talk create such an uproar? ([19:27-29](#))
- 767. Whom did the mob seize? ([19:29](#))
- 768. Where did the angry crowd take the two men? ([19:29](#))
- 769. Why did Paul want to appear before the crowd? ([19:30](#))
- 770. Why wouldn’t the Christians and some officials let Paul appear before the crowd? ([19:30-31](#))
- 771. What was the mood of the mob? ([19:32](#))
- 772. Why wouldn’t the people listen to Alexander? ([19:33-34](#))
- 773. How did the city clerk bring order to the crowd in the Ephesian theater? ([19:35-40](#))
- 774. What reasons did the city clerk give for dispersing the mob? ([19:35-41](#))