

Small Group Study

Our Vision

To know God and enjoy Him forever.

Our Mission

To build a Christian community by making fully devoted disciples of non-religious and nominally religious people



Discussion

Power with Purpose: Equipping and Power

Scripture

Have volunteers read the following scripture:

Acts 19:8-20 (NLT)

8 Then Paul went to the synagogue and preached boldly for the next three months, arguing persuasively about the Kingdom of God. 9 But some became stubborn, rejecting his message and publicly speaking against the Way. So Paul left the synagogue and took the believers with him. Then he held daily discussions at the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10 This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the word of the Lord.

11 God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. 12 When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled.

13 A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, "I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!" 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. 15 But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?" 16 Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered.

17 The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored. 18 Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. 19 A number of them, who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars. 20 So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect.

Ice Breaker

Use ONE of the questions to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

- 1.** What is one thing you used to do when you were younger that you don't do anymore?
- 2.** If you had to, would you rather stand in a synagogue and preach Jesus to a bunch of Jewish people or would you rather try to cast out a demon in the name of Jesus?
- 3.** Have you ever gotten involved in something and later wished you hadn't?

Questions

- I.** What stood out to you in the sermon this week?

2. What did Paul do when he arrived in Ephesus? (Acts 19:8) What is normal about his activity? What is unusual?
3. What eventually occurs? And what is Paul's response? (Acts 19:9, Hebrews 3:12-19)
4. How can Satan harden our heart against the gospel?
5. Was Paul effective at preaching the word? (Acts 19:10)
6. Look at Acts 19:11-12 again. Does God still do "unusual miracles" today?
7. Why do you feel the seven sons of Sceva were unable to drive out demons?
8. Is their use of the name of Jesus evidence that they believed in His power?
9. What is required of a person to cast out demons? (Mark 16:17-18, Ephesians 1:15-23)
10. Have you ever seen a demon cast out before?
11. Repentance means turning around and giving up the things of the past. How did those who were repenting from magic repent? (Acts 19:19-20)
12. Have you ever done something like this? Are there things that we should publicly repent of?
13. What is one thing you've learned today/tonight that you can apply to your life?

God bless,

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