

ACTS

Bible Study

2018-2019



Lesson: 23
Acts 19:1-41

Read this week's scripture and answer the questions below. As you read, consider how these verses fit into what you are seeing or experiencing today. Prepare to share with your small group anything that jumped out at you, confused you, encouraged you, challenged or convicted you.

Wednesday:

This week we tackle Acts 19. Begin by reading verses 1-7. Paul returns to Ephesus and asks the disciples if they have received the Holy Spirit? This question, then as now, is consequential. There is a difference between knowledge and power, certainty and faith. Have we received the Spirit? Are we walking in his power? Let these questions lead you to prayer today.

Thursday:

Spend time in verses 8-12. Paul goes to work: in the synagogue, in the lecture halls. Don't read over the passage of time here. Paul labors for 2 years. Acts reads like a comic book, but at its heart it is an epic novel. Consider the work the Lord has done in the last two years. Imagine what he might do in the next 2 years. Go to prayer today. Thank him for his faithfulness. Pray that his kingdom would come, that his will would be done.

Friday:

Take in verses 13-20. The gospel has always attracted con-men. Behind these deceivers lie real demonic power. But the plans of the Lord and the power in the name of Jesus are not to be trifled with nor halted. Ask God for his truth to stand far above the lies. Pray for nations, their repentance and return. Pray that the word of the Lord would spread widely and grow in power.

Saturday:

Rest in verse 21 and 22. Paul returns to Jerusalem; he reassesses the mission; he redirects some of his colleagues; Paul rests and repairs so as to reengage. What speaks to you in Paul's example? Returning? Reassessing? Redirecting? Rest? Repair? Reengagement? Pray to God the realities of the season you find yourself living in and trust in his plan to lead you on.

Sunday:

Read verses 23-27. The gospel encounters defiant opposition, as true worship supplant false worship. The gospel disrupts; it subverts; it confronts; it reveals. The Lion of Judah has teeth. Take these thoughts to prayer today. Ask that the gospel would continue to disrupt the ways of this world; ask that we would remain faithful amidst opposition. Praise the Lion who is also the lamb. Kneel before the one who was, and is, and is to come.

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Monday:

Note verses 28-31. Despite wanting to go, Paul is prevented from defending the faith amidst this uproar. The gospel is not dependent on any one man. Paul is a great and faithful servant, but let us not forget the hero of the story, the big story, the whole story, the one story: Jesus. Confess your limitations. Declare that He has none. Asked to be used for the gospel, in your weakness, in His strength.

Tuesday:

Read the rest of the chapter 32-41. Through a Roman official, order is restored to Ephesus. God can and will use any means necessary to make a way for The Way. The culture of Ephesus resisted the gospel and yet scripture tells us the church took hold and flourished there. The culture of today resists the gospel. Pray that the church would meet the challenge, lift high the name of Jesus for His Glory and our good.

Notes/Prayer Request
