

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 16, 2007

Passage: Acts 19:21-41

Memory Passage: 1 Peter 2:15

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 19:21-22.** What gave Paul the freedom to consider leaving Ephesus? How long had he been there (Acts 19:10)?
- (b) Why would Paul go back through Macedonia and Achaia? He had just traveled there on his way to Ephesus (Acts 19:1). What was he doing and why was this so important (Romans 15:25-28)?
- (c) How did he expect this gift to affect the church in Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8:1-4; 2 Corinthians 9:12-15)?
- (d) What was Paul's heart and his goal (ambition) according to Romans 15:28 and Romans 15:20-24?
- (e) What was the longest that Paul stayed at any church? What was the normal amount of time he stayed? What does this tell us about his gifts and calling? Are all ministers to follow Paul's pattern (Ephesians 4:11-12)? Explain.
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 19:21-22 and 2 Corinthians 9:12-15. Talk together about how giving encourages other believers. What are some of the fruits of giving to others? How does sacrificial giving affect our own lives? How does it all result in praise to God? What was Paul's passion? Pray that you might have a heart to give in such a way that God will be honored.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 19:23-27.** What takes place *before* Paul leaves Ephesus?
- (b) Is this the first such conflict in Ephesus (Acts 19:9)? What is different about this conflict?
- (c) What warning does Paul give in 1 Timothy 6:9-10? How would this relate to one of the major reasons behind the riot?
- (d) What impact was the gospel having on the world at this point (Acts 19:26)? What impact was it having on society (Acts 19:25-27)? What impact should the gospel have on believers (1 Thessalonians 1:5-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Corinthians 16:19-20)?
- (e) What does Demetrius accuse Paul of doing (Acts 19:26)? What is *illogical* about this logic (Psalm 115:4-8; Isaiah 44:10-20)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 19:23-27 and 1 Timothy 6:9-10. Talk about some of the reasons that people follow other religions. Are all really *sincere*? Even if they are sincere, what is our responsibility to them? How are our lives a testimony to the gospel? Pray that you might live each day as a testimony to the power of the gospel in your life.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 19:28-34.** What was the response of the city when told what Paul and his companions were doing?
- (b) How does Luke describe their response in Acts 19:29 and 19:32? What does this tell us about the reason behind their anger?
- (c) What is the danger of any emotional response? How does the *emotional* response of some in the Corinthian church even blaspheme Christ (1 Corinthians 12:1-3)?
- (d) What is Paul's assessment of emotions and using his mind in 1 Corinthians 14:19-20? Does he rule out emotions or spiritual experiences? How does he regulate them (1 Corinthians 14:27-33, 37)?
- (e) What is one major difference between Diana of the Ephesians and the one true God (Isaiah 45:5-8; Jeremiah 10:5)? How is the truth victorious over false gods and religions?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 19:28-34 and Isaiah 45:5-8. How did the image that fell from heaven get to the temple? What does Isaiah 45:5-8 tell us about these false gods? Why would people worship them? What false gods do people worship today? Pray for someone who does not know the truth about salvation through Jesus Christ alone.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 19:35-41.** What wise advice does the town clerk give the people of Ephesus? What is the primary motivation behind his counsel (Acts 19:39-40)?
- (b) Where do we see evidence that some respected Paul and protected him (Acts 19:30-31)? What was Paul's emotional response to the situation? How did the wisdom of others protect him?
- (c) Why is it important to listen to the counsel of others (Proverbs 11:14; Proverbs 12:15; Proverbs 24:6)?
- (d) How should believers respond to false accusations (1 Peter 2:11-15 and 1 Peter 3:15-16)?
- (e) How did God providentially protect His servants in the riot of Ephesus?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 19:35-41 and 1 Peter 2:11-15. How should we respond when people falsely accuse us? Why is it our tendency to rush in and defend ourselves? How do we "put to silence the ignorance of evil men?" Pray that God will give you a calm spirit that trusts Him whenever you are attacked for the sake of the gospel.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read 1 Peter 5:8-11.** What does Peter identify as Satan’s strategy? What does he indicate should be our response?
- (b) Read Ephesians 6:10-20. Where is our strength to come from when we face spiritual conflict (Ephesians 6:10)? Why is this an essential starting point (remember Acts 19:13-16)?
- (c) What word is constantly repeated in this passage (Ephesians 6:11, 13, 14)? What is our primary task in spiritual warfare (Exodus 14:13; 1 Samuel 12:16; 2 Chronicles 20:17)?
- (d) What does verse 11 tell us about Satan’s approach and tactics? What is our best defense (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)? How many times is truth or the idea of God’s Word mentioned in Ephesians 6? What does this tell you about spiritual warfare?
- (e) How can we best attack the kingdom of Satan (three things; Ephesians 6:17-20)?
- (f) Read Ephesians 6:10-20 and talk about spiritual warfare. What is it biblically? What do people often associate with spiritual warfare? Do these things happen still today? What should be our emphasis? Pray that you might be able to share the gospel so that some may escape the snare of the enemy through salvation through Jesus.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 19:21-41. What was Paul’s heart and goal? Is this the same for every minister of Christ? Why does the gospel always produce conflict? Is that conflict always religious? What is the danger of an emotional response? How did God protect His servant through His providence? Does He always do this? Pray for your church services tomorrow that the truth might be preached without compromise.

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The Riot in Ephesus

“And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way...”