

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

1st Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 46

Ephesus

Ephesus

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective This lesson will show the students that it is better to live God's way than our own way using the story of the beginning of the church of Ephesus in Acts 19.

Key Verses

Acts 19—Main Teaching Passage

Memory Verse - John 15:5

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, John 17:3.

Print out directions for a paper airplane or use the one at the end of this packet. Ask the students what would happen if you decided that you didn't want to follow directions, that you wanted to make the plane your own way. Then make folds and cuts that would ruin the airplane.

Just like you have the choice to make the airplane either by the instructions or your own way, we have the choice to live life our own way or God's way. While sometimes making a paper plane our own way might work out, living our own way never does.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Today we will look at Paul's journey to Ephesus. His first encounter was with a group of disciples who had been baptized by John, but had not received or even heard of the Holy Spirit, nor did they know about Jesus. Paul preached to them and they were baptized in the name of Christ. Then the Holy Spirit then came on them, causing them to speak in tongues and prophesy. After that, Paul went to the synagogue to preach, but when he faced opposition from the Jews, he began teaching Gentiles.

As Paul ministered, God began doing miracles through him. Even the rags he used to wipe his sweat were being used to heal the sick and cast out demons. Inspired by this, seven Jewish brothers began trying to cast out a demon in the name of "Jesus, whom Paul preaches." The demon responded that it had heard of Jesus and of Paul, but never these men. The demon-possessed man then jumped on them, overpowered them, and they fled the house wounded. This caused a great fear to fall on the people of Ephesus, and many were saved. To show their rejection of their old way of life, the Ephesians burned all of their books of magic and burned them.

However, this revival angered a silversmith named Demetrius who made idols, since the revival meant people were no longer buying his idols, so he gathered some of the other silversmiths and started a riot. Paul wanted to go speak to the rioters, but his friends held him back, warning that it was too dangerous. Finally, the town clerk told the rioters that they were in danger of getting into big trouble if the riot did not stop. He said that if they had a problem with Paul, they should deal with him in court. At that, the riot dispersed.

LOOK

In today's story, each of the characters went down one of two paths. Paul's ministry was powerful and was able to accomplish all the Lord had for Him to do. Everything he did in Ephesus prospered, and the end result was a large revival in the city. Both the sons of Sceva and Demetrius took a different path. The sons of Sceva were not only unable to cast out the demon, but they were beaten and humiliated. Demetrius' riot was shut down by the town clerk and proved to be unsuccessful at thwarting Paul or turning people away from Christianity. What was the difference between Paul and the others? Why did he experience success, whereas the sons of Sceva and Demetrius failed to accomplish what they wanted to do? Because while the others were doing things their own way, Paul was doing things God's way.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

Living God's way means living in obedience to God's Word and trusting the Holy Spirit, not our own strength or wisdom. Paul ministered God's way, and the results were incredible. He performed numerous miracles and had one of the best responses to the Gospel he ever saw. This was not a result of Paul's own cleverness or power, but a work of the Spirit. In contrast, the sons of Sceva tried to cast out demons by their own power. They did it not for God's glory, but their own, and the end result was humiliation. Demetrius opposed God outright, and in the end he was unsuccessful and stopping the spread of Christianity in Ephesus.

There is blessing in living God's way because God's will cannot be stopped. This does not mean that, if we are following God, we will succeed in everything we do and no harm will come to us. What it does mean is that if we live God's way, we can expect to see Him working in our lives and will avoid the consequences of disobeying God. On the other hand, if we are living our own way, like the sons of Sceva or Demetrius, we will fail in our attempts to accomplish our own will and face difficulties as a result of going against God's will. So how do we know if we are living God's way or our own way? The best way to tell is to compare the way we are living to what it says in God's Word. God's Word tells us exactly how we as His children ought to live.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize John 15:5.

Make two columns on the board, one labeled "My Way," and the other, "God's Way." Take a passage such as Ephesians 4:22-32 and write in the appropriate column what it looks like to live our own way vs. God's way.

Pray: Thank the Lord for giving us His Holy Spirit so that we can live for Him. Ask Him to help us live His way, not ours.

Parent question: How do I know whether I'm living my own way or God's way?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Acts 19 by David Guzik

Paul in Ephesus

A. Ephesian disciples are baptized in the Holy Spirit.

1. ([Act 19:1-2](#)) In Ephesus, Paul finds some disciples who had not yet received the Holy Spirit.

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

a. **Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?** Apparently, there was something about these **disciples** that prompted the question from Paul; we don't have any indication that it was his custom to ask people if they had received the Holy Spirit.

b. **We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit:** By their reply, these Ephesian **disciples** reveal that they have very little knowledge of God's nature as revealed in Jesus. They know enough to be saved and students of Jesus (they are called **disciples**), but they didn't know much about all Jesus has done for us.

2. ([Act 19:3-4](#)) Paul distinguishes between the baptism of John and baptism in the name of the Jesus.

And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."

a. **Into John's baptism:** These Ephesian disciples had only a basic understanding of the Messiah Jesus and His ministry, only what could be gained through the message of John the Baptist. They were in the same place as Apollos before Aquila and Priscilla explained *the way of God more accurately* ([Acts 18:24-26](#)).

i. They could have received **John's baptism** from the hands of John himself; or perhaps some of John's disciples continued on in his ministry after John's death.

b. **John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance:** Paul points out that John's baptism was one of **repentance**, not necessarily faith unto salvation. John's message pointed to Jesus, but did not take men there itself.

c. One can imagine that these Ephesian disciples heard about the coming of the Messiah through John's message, and they heard of their need to be ready to receive the Messiah and to ready themselves through repentance. Yet they actually do not seem to have heard that the Messiah *had* in fact come, and had not heard of their need to trust in His specific person and work.

d. Some have suggested that these Ephesian disciples were not actually Christians yet. The problem in this is that they are called *disciples*, which almost always refers to Christians, genuine followers of Jesus Christ. However, it must be said that the word *disciple* does have a broader understanding and application than its

most frequent usage - describing a follower of Jesus.

i. However, Bruce makes the point: "When the men are called *disciples* without further qualification, that ... seems to mean that they were disciples of Jesus. Had Luke meant to indicate that they were disciples of John the Baptist ... he would have said so explicitly."

3. ([Act 19:5-7](#)) The twelve Ephesian disciples believe on Jesus, are baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit with His gifts.

When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all.

a. **They were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus:** Having been completely prepared by their response to the preaching of John the Baptist, they are ready to embrace Jesus fully, and are **baptized in the name of Jesus**.

b. After they were baptized, **Paul ... laid hands on them**, and they were filled with the **Holy Spirit**, and received His gifts.

i. Paul wrote the letters of 1 and 2 Corinthians during his stay in the city of Ephesus at this time, and 1 Corinthians has much to say about person and work of the Holy Spirit.

c. **Now the men were about twelve in all** reminds us that not the entire church in Ephesus had this incomplete understanding and embrace of Jesus' person and work, but only a small group.

4. What happened here?

a. It's a tough issue, and full of debate, whether these Ephesian disciples were actually Christians or not before they received this remarkable filling of the Holy Spirit.

i. On the one hand, they are called *disciples* - and appear to part of the company of Christians in Ephesus, things that would not usually be said of them if they were not actually Christians.

ii. On the other hand, they know so little about Jesus; and they are baptized in water again, this time in the name of Jesus.

iii. So were they Christians already or not? It's tough to say - but certainly, Paul perceived they lacked something of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

b. What about you? Would someone look at your life and see a conspicuous absence of the Holy Spirit - His peace and power - in your life? What do you see when you look at your own life?

i. These Ephesian disciples sensed their need to get right with God, and knew the answer was in God's Messiah - but they had gone no further than that. They need to go all the way, trust in everything Jesus is and everything He had done, and to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Is this where you are at?

ii. "Have ye then received the Spirit since you believed? Beloved, are you now receiving the Spirit? Are you living under his divine influence? Are you filled with his power? Put the question personally. I am afraid some professors will have to admit that they hardly know whether there be any Holy Ghost; and others will have to confess that though they have enjoyed a little of his saving work, yet they do not know much of his ennobling and sanctifying influence." (Spurgeon)

iii. God always wants us to go deeper. We have sipped where we might have drunk deeply, we have drunk deeply where we might have waded, and we have waded where we might have gone full out and plunged in!

c. What if you don't really know? "Perhaps I'm walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit right now, perhaps I'm not. I don't really know." If you are walking in it, you will know!

i. "Give a man an electric shock, and I warrant you he will know it; but if he has the Holy Ghost, he will know it much more." (Spurgeon) This isn't something to *hope* about; we can *know* - just as much as you know if you have a house, and a family, and that there are four quarters to the dollar, you can know you are filled with the Holy Spirit.

ii. Many Christians know little or nothing - mentally or experientially - of the Holy Spirit. Paul's question applies to each of them just as much as it applied to those Ephesian disciples.

B. Paul's continuing ministry in the city of Ephesus.

1. ([Act 19:8-10](#)) Paul eventually leaves the synagogue and begins teaching in a borrowed school building.

And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

a. **He went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months:** Paul had an extended time of preaching in the synagogue, but eventually, the influence of those Jews rejecting the message drove him out. Then he resumed his teaching in the hall of a Gentile teacher named Tyrannus (**reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus**).

i. One ancient, though not inspired, writings say that Paul held his meetings at the school of Tyrannus from eleven in the morning to four in the afternoon. This would have been the time most people were resting from work, including Paul, who worked to support himself while in Ephesus. These may have also been the "off hours" for the school of Tyrannus.

b. **And this continued for two years:** Paul carried this on for two years, and his effective teaching equipped believers, who got the word of God out to **all who dwelt in Asia**.

i. There is no way that Paul, by himself, could reach this region. But he could equip Christians to do the work of the ministry, just as he described in [Ephesians 4:11-12](#).

2. ([Act 19:11-12](#)) Unusual miracles in Ephesus.

Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

a. **Now God worked unusual miracles:** Luke states that these were **unusual** miracles, and gives an example, that Paul's **handkerchiefs or aprons** (literally, "sweat-bands") could be laid on a person even without Paul present, that person would be healed or delivered from demonic possession.

i. Literally, the phrase **unusual miracles** could be translated, *miracles not of the ordinary kind*. Even if we should "expect" miracles, these are the unexpected sort!

ii. It was unusual for God to use **handkerchiefs or aprons** in such a way. "The pieces of material were presumably those which Paul used in his tentmaking or leather-working - the sweat-rags for tying around his head and the aprons for tying around his waist." (Bruce)

b. How did the **handkerchiefs or aprons** work? In the same way that the shadow of Peter ([Acts 5:15](#)) or the hem of Jesus' garment ([Matthew 14:36](#)) might heal: the item became a point of contact by which a person released faith in Jesus as healer.

i. We are not told that *Paul* did these unusual miracles, but that **God worked them by the hands of Paul**.

c. We can imagine this happening at first almost by accident - perhaps a person in need of healing took a handkerchief from Paul in a superstitious manner and was healed. But it would soon become a pattern that others imitated.

i. I remember seeing what looked to be loosely rolled up newspapers on a pulpit in Bulgaria, being told they were pieces of fabric (wrapped in newspapers) that the pastor would pray over and they would be taken home to sick people. This was a common practice in these Bulgarian churches.

ii. As we will see, the superstitious practice of magic and sorcery was prevalent in Ephesus. So, it should not surprise us that some took a quite superstitious view of the miracles done through Paul.

d. Observations on these unusual miracles.

i. Note that these were *unusual* miracles; we should not expect that God would continue to use this method to bring healing.

ii. God delights in doing things in new and different ways; so we *receive* whatever is proven to be from the hand of God, but we *pursue* only that which we have a Biblical pattern for.

iii. God will stoop down to meet us even in our crude superstitions. This never means that God is pleased with our superstition, but that in His mercy He may overlook them to meet a need.

3. ([Act 19:13-16](#)) A rebuke to the seven sons of Sceva, the hopeful Jewish exorcists.

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

a. **Some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists:** At that time, there were Jewish exorcists who practiced their "trade" with a lot of superstition and ceremony. Here, a group of **itinerant Jewish exorcists** try to imitate Paul's "formula" for success.

b. **We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches:** The **Jewish exorcists** failed because they had no personal relationship with Jesus. They only know Jesus is the God of Paul, not their own God.

i. There are many people - many churchgoers - who will perish in Hell because they have no personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They only know "the Jesus the pastor preaches" or of "the Jesus my spouse believes in" instead of the Jesus of their own salvation.

ii. Do you have the "right" to use the name of Jesus? These sons of Sceva did not, because they had no personal

relationship with Jesus.

c. **And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?"** The evil spirit knew exactly who Jesus was, and knew exactly who Paul was. But they didn't know who the **seven sons of Sceva** were. Apparently, evil spirits know who their enemies are (in this case, **Jesus and Paul**), and don't waste their effort knowing those who aren't a threat to them (in this case, the **seven sons of Sceva**).

d. **Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them:** Because the **seven sons of Sceva** had no real relationship with Jesus, they had no spiritual power against the **evil spirit**. They left the encounter **naked and wounded**. It was dangerous for them to take the reality of spiritual warfare lightly.

4. ([Act 19:17-20](#)) Many in Ephesus renounce objects associated with the demonic.

This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned *them* in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and *it* totaled fifty thousand *pieces* of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

a. **This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all:** The incident with the sons of Sceva impressed the people with the reality of the demonic realm. It made them fear the Lord and the demonic (both in healthy ways) and **the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified**.

i. "Ephesus was a stronghold of Satan. Here many evil things both superstitious and satanic were practiced. Books containing formula for sorcery and other ungodly and forbidden arts were plentiful in that city." (Gaebelein)

b. **Many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds:** Apparently, before the sons of Sceva incident, many believers did not *know* they were involved in the demonic. They saw their actions in a far more innocent light, until they knew the reality of the demonic.

c. **Many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all:** The sons of Sceva incident also prompted Christians to renounce any remaining connection to the demonic. They renounced the demonic by **confessing** and by burning their magic books, disregarding whatever value they might have.

i. It is significant that these practitioners of magic **came confessing and telling their deeds**; it was thought that the power of these magic spells resided in their *secrecy*, which was renounced in the telling.

ii. These **books** and scrolls full of magic charms, amulets and incantations were well known in Ephesus, and they were valuable. The drachma was a silver coin representing about a one-fourth a day's wage, and if we estimate 300 working days a year, at an income of \$25,000, this amount represented more than \$1 million!

iii. Christians must do this also today, removing books, tapes, records, statues, charms, games, or whatever else might have connection with demonic spirits. They should also destroy them so they are of no use to others.

iv. "You will have enough temptation in your own mind without going after these things. Is there any habit, any practice, that you have got that defiles your soul? If Christ loves you, and you come and trust in him, you will make short work of it. Have done with it, and have done with it forever." (Spurgeon)

d. The end result was obviously worth it all: **The word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.**

C. The riot in Ephesus.

1. ([Act 19:21-22](#)) Paul's companions leave him alone in Ephesus.

When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time.

a. **Paul purposed in the Spirit:** Guided by the Holy Spirit, Paul determined his itinerary. He would travel through Macedonia and Achaia, then to Jerusalem, then to Rome.

i. Luke doesn't mention it here, but we know that one reason why Paul wanted to go through Macedonia and Achaia, then to Jerusalem was to collect and deliver a fund he had been collecting from other churches to help out the church in Jerusalem ([Romans 15:25-31](#); [1 Corinthians 16:1-4](#)).

b. **So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus:** Paul sent Timothy and Erastus on ahead to Macedonia, while he stayed in Ephesus (Asia) for a time.

c. **Who ministered to him:** Notice the job of Timothy and Erastus. They **ministered to** Paul; they were truly assistants to the apostle, helping Paul to maximize his ministry.

2. ([Act 19:23-28](#)) Demetrius, a maker of idols, opposes Paul because his business has suffered.

And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship." Now when they heard *this*, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians!"

a. **This trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed:** This tremendous temple to Diana (also known as Artemis) in Ephesus was regarded as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. It was supported by 127 pillars, each 60 feet high, and was adorned with great sculptures. It was completely lost to history until 1869, when it was discovered again, and its main altar was unearthed in 1965.

i. "The Temple of Artemis was also a major treasury and bank of the ancient world, where merchants, kings, and even cities made deposits, and where their money could be kept safe under the protection of deity." (Longenecker)

ii. **Whom all Asia and the world worship:** The temple of Diana in Ephesus was indeed famous around the world; and trinkets and idols from it must have been a substantial trade, no matter how immoral the worship of the sex-goddess was.

b. **This Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands:** The opposition of Demetrius and the other idol makers is a great compliment to the effectiveness of Paul's work in the region. Paul was not on a "let's close down the temple of Diana" campaign, he was just doing the Lord's work. As people came to Jesus, they naturally stopped worshipping Diana and buy-

ing shrines associated with the temple.

- i. In [verse 37](#), the city clerk specifically says that Paul had not blasphemed the goddess Diana. He was on a "pro-Jesus" campaign more than an "anti-everything else" campaign.
- ii. This is how we should endeavor to change society. "I wish the gospel would affect the trade of London; I wish it might. There are some trades that need affecting, need to be cut a little shorter ... Not by an Act of Parliament! Let Acts of Parliament leave us alone. We can fight that battle alone. But may it come to an end by the spread of the gospel ... I have no faith in any reformation that does not come through men's hearts being changed." (Spurgeon)

3. ([Act 19:29-34](#)) The riot builds momentum.

So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions. And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him. Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater. Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together. And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wanted to make his defense to the people. But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"

- a. **The whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord:** Considering Rome's iron-fisted attitude towards such civil disorder, things were rapidly getting out of hand.
- b. **They drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward:** Alexander wanted to make sure that the mob knew that the Jews did not approve of Paul either; but he accomplished nothing before the angry crowd.
- c. The chant **Great Diana of the Ephesians!** must have sent a chill up the backs of the Christians, including Paul who no doubt could hear it from outside the theater.
- i. "The noise must have been deafening. The acoustics of the theater are excellent even today and at that time were even better because of bronze and clay sounding vessels placed throughout the auditorium." (Williams)

4. ([Act 19:35-41](#)) The city clerk is able to calm the passion of the crowd.

And when the city clerk had quieted the crowd, he said: "Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and of the *image* which fell down from Zeus? Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly. For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess. Therefore, if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly. For we are in danger of being called in question for today's uproar, there being no reason which we may give to account for this disorderly gathering." And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

- a. **Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly:** The city clerk speaks sensible words; Luke is trying to show that rational people see nothing to fear or oppose in Christianity.
- i. The **city clerk** was actually what we would consider the "mayor" of the city.

b. **He dismissed the assembly:** God used the city clerk to calm the mob and end the immediate threat to Paul and the other Christians. God had preserved His work, and His people, again.

i. **Assembly** in [Acts 19:41](#) is the Greek word *ekklesia*, the same word used for "church." It was a non-religious term used to describe a gathering or association of people.

