

LifeGroup Questions  
Based On: Acts 19:23-41  
July 24, 2016

**Overview:**

In Acts 19 the Apostle Paul is preaching in the city of Ephesus. It was an extremely influential city during this time period. Located on a port, Ephesus was the center of commerce for most of the province of Asia. Today this area is called Turkey. Paul knew that if he could get a ministry started in Ephesus it would spread throughout all of Asia. He was determined to overcome any obstacles and establish Christianity in Ephesus. This city was tremendously important.

The temple of Artemis was a major obstacle Paul was going to have to overcome. The temple was one of the seven major wonders of the ancient world. She was worshipped throughout the known world. Paul doesn't let this deter him from his mission of preaching the gospel. He was not only preaching the truth nobody had heard, but he was also going completely against the culture of the city. The worship of Artemis was part of the identity of being a citizen of Ephesus.

Paul spent 27 months in Ephesus preaching the gospel. He was having a huge impact. The silversmiths were beginning to lose business as people became Christian. A silversmith made models of Artemis and sold them. As people started believing in Jesus they would stop buying this false silver image of Artemis. Even though Paul was fulfilling God's will, he still had a lot of adversity to overcome.

Paul could either stop preaching or he could pray for God's strength to get him through. Sometimes it is hard to understand why when you do a good thing it doesn't always have the outcome you want. Paul was obedient and preached the gospel and now the whole town was in a riot. The silversmiths were less worried about the temple and more worried about their income. Either way, they had the entire town at the local theatre shouting, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians." Paul could let this get him down or he could choose to overcome and continue his ministry.

**Bible Study:** Acts 19:23-41

1. Discuss some of the biggest challenges you have faced in recent years.
2. Everything in Ephesus centered on belonging to the cult Artemis. There wasn't anywhere you could go or anything you do that wasn't influenced by Artemis. What are some of the biggest obstacles you see facing the Gospel in today's culture?
3. Read Acts 19:26-27. In modern culture nobody carries around silver images of Artemis, but that doesn't mean there are not false idols. In today's society what do people place value upon above their relationship with God?
4. Paul completely went against the culture of Ephesus. What is the balance for today's church in reaching out to the lost where they are and confronting a lost culture?
5. Read Acts 19:18-20. The people in Ephesus who believed in Jesus decided to burn all the sorcery scrolls that represented their past. It doesn't say in the text that Paul told

them to do this, it was just part of their response to the Gospel. Discuss something you got rid of when you accepted Jesus.

6. Read Acts 19:32. Some people were part of the crowd without even knowing why they were there. This seems to happen a lot in our culture. What are some of the dangers of getting caught up in a crowd without knowing or having a purpose? Discuss how you have seen this in our culture.
7. Whenever you face obstacles in your life, what steps do you take to overcome them?