

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Unstoppable Church Wk 18: A Revival and a Revolt - 10.11.26 | Kyle Morris
Acts 19:1–41

About This Week's Message:

As Paul arrives in Ephesus, we see the gospel confronting a city deeply influenced by idolatry, spiritual darkness, and the worship of Artemis. Ephesus was a place where religion, economics, and everyday life were closely connected. Yet as Paul faithfully proclaims Jesus, the power of God begins transforming lives and disrupting the spiritual strongholds of the city.

Acts 19 gives us a picture of both revival and resistance. People encounter the Holy Spirit, extraordinary miracles take place, the name of Jesus is lifted high, believers confess their sins, and people turn away from practices that once held them captive. But as the gospel spreads, opposition rises. Those who profit from the worship of Artemis see their livelihoods threatened, and the city erupts in confusion and unrest.

This chapter reminds us that the gospel is never merely a private matter. When Jesus transforms hearts, lives change, priorities shift, and the things we once worshiped lose their hold on us. The Kingdom of God confronts the kingdom of darkness, and following Jesus calls us to genuine repentance, surrender, and obedience.

Goals of This Week's Discussion:

- Understand that spiritual authority and power belong to Jesus, not to religious formulas or practices.
- Identify the marks of genuine revival seen in Ephesus.
- Consider what repentance and removing darkness might look like in our own lives.
- Recognize that the spread of the gospel can bring opposition when it confronts deeply held beliefs, priorities, and idols.
- Grow in confidence that God's Word continues to advance even in the face of resistance.

Connections with the 7-Marks of a Jesus Follower:

- **Stand in Awe**: Recognize the holiness, authority, and power of Jesus, responding with reverence and worship.
- **Walk in the Word**: Allow God's truth to confront false beliefs and reshape the way we live.
- **Live Free**: Confess sin, turn away from darkness, and remove what keeps us from walking in the freedom Jesus gives.

Starter Questions:

- When you hear the word revival, what comes to mind?
- Have you ever experienced a season when God was bringing significant change or spiritual renewal into your life?
- Why do you think meaningful spiritual transformation sometimes creates resistance?

Read Acts 19:1–7

And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland[a] country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. 2 And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John's baptism.” 4 And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in[b] the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. 7 There were about twelve men in all.

Discussion:

- What stands out to you about Paul's interaction with these disciples?
- Why is it significant that Paul directs their attention from John's baptism to Jesus?
- What does this passage reveal about the importance of the Holy Spirit?
- How can we become comfortable with religious knowledge or practices while neglecting a daily dependence on God's presence?

Read Acts 19:8–10

8 And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. 9 But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.[a] 10 This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

Discussion:

- What do you notice about Paul's persistence in proclaiming the gospel?
- How does Paul respond when people reject or oppose his message?
- Why is consistent, faithful teaching of God's Word so important for lasting spiritual transformation?
- Where might God be calling you to remain faithful even when you are not seeing immediate results?

Read Acts 19:

11 And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. 13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." 14 Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. 15 But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" 16 And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all[a] of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled.

Discussion:

- What does this passage teach us about the power and authority of Jesus?
- Why is there a difference between knowing about Jesus and truly knowing Him?
- How can we be tempted to treat prayer, Scripture, or spiritual practices as formulas rather than expressions of a relationship with God?
- What does it mean to live in a way that takes the reality of spiritual darkness seriously while remaining confident in Christ's authority?

Read Acts 19:18–20

[18] Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. [19] And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. [20] So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

Five Marks of Revival

The sermon identifies five significant characteristics of what God was doing in Ephesus:

1. **The Fear of the Lord**

A renewed reverence for God's holiness, authority, and loving boundaries.

2. **The Name of Jesus Lifted High**

Jesus becomes the center of attention, worship, and honor.

3. **Confession of Sin**

People bring hidden things into the light rather than continuing to conceal them.

4. **Repentance and Removal of Darkness**

People do more than acknowledge their sin. They take action to remove what is keeping them connected to their former ways of life.

5. **The Word of God Prevails**

God's truth continues spreading and transforming people.

Discussion:

- Which of these five marks stands out to you most? Why?
- What is the difference between being afraid of God and having a healthy fear of the Lord?
- Why is confession such an important part of spiritual renewal?
- The sermon reminds us that repentance sometimes means removing something. What might that look like in our lives today?
- How can we recognize the difference between temporary spiritual excitement and genuine, lasting transformation?
- What would it look like to see these five marks increasingly present in our church?

Read Acts 19:21–27

21 Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.” 22 And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while. 23 About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. 24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. 25 These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. 26 And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. 27 And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship.”

Discussion:

- Why did the spread of the gospel become such a threat to Demetrius and the other craftsmen?
- What does their reaction reveal about the connection between what people worship and what they value?
- How can money, security, influence, or personal comfort become obstacles to surrendering fully to Jesus?
- Where might the truth of the gospel challenge values or priorities that our culture considers normal?

Read Acts 19:28–41

28 When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” 29 So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel. 30 But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him. 31 And even some of the Asiarchs,[a] who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theater. 32 Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. 33 Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had put forward. And Alexander, motioning with his hand, wanted to make a defense to the crowd. 34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours

they all cried out with one voice, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” [35] And when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, “Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky?[b] [36] Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. [37] For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess. [38] If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. [39] But if you seek anything further,[c] it shall be settled in the regular assembly. [40] For we really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion.” [41] And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

Discussion:

- What stands out to you about the crowd's response to the spread of the gospel?
- How does this passage reveal that the gospel has implications beyond our private spiritual lives?
- What can we learn from the contrast between the transformation taking place among believers and the confusion of the crowd?
- How can we remain faithful to Jesus when following Him brings criticism, misunderstanding, or opposition?

Reflection:

- Which of the five marks of revival in Acts 19 is most evident in your life right now? Which needs greater attention?
- Is there anything in your life that you have been reluctant to confess or bring into the light?
- What might God be asking you to remove rather than simply manage?
- Are you living with a growing reverence for the holiness and authority of Jesus?
- How might God want to use your life to confront darkness and bring the hope of Jesus to others?

Application:

- Cultivate the fear of the Lord. Spend intentional time this week reflecting on God's holiness, goodness, and authority. Ask Him to deepen your reverence for Him.
- Lift the name of Jesus high. Consider whether Jesus is truly at the center of your priorities, decisions, and relationships. Look for opportunities to honor Him in the way you live.
- Bring sin into the light. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything you have been hiding, excusing, or avoiding. Respond with honest confession and repentance.
- Remove what keeps you in darkness. Identify one practical step you can take to remove an influence, habit, practice, or pattern that is keeping you from walking freely with Jesus.
- Trust the power of the gospel. Pray for someone who needs the transforming presence of Jesus. Look for an opportunity to share His truth and love with them.

Pray:

- Thank God for the power of the gospel to bring freedom, transformation, and new life.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen our reverence for God and our awareness of His holiness.
- Invite Jesus to reveal areas of sin, compromise, or spiritual darkness that need to be brought into the light.
- Ask God for courage and faithfulness when following Jesus brings opposition or difficulty.
- Ask God to bring genuine revival to Revive Church, marked by the fear of the Lord, confession of sin, repentance, freedom, and the prevailing power of His Word.