

## My Witnesses - A Study of Acts Discussion Guide: Week 47 - Acts 19:8-20

**Summary of this week's teaching:** During Paul's time in Ephesus, God poured out His Spirit in numerous exciting ways: people heard the Gospel, God performed extraordinary miracles, the sick were healed, those under spiritual oppression were liberated through the power of Christ, the fear of the Lord fell upon all, the name of Jesus was extolled, people confessed their sins and renounced their sinful behavior, and the Word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily! We all desire to experience such powerful movements of the Lord... but what are we willing to do to see God move in similar ways?

**Connect:** Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. Have you ever personally seen/experienced a miracle? If so, please share your experience.

**Seed:** The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed - it contains everything we need to experience life. Please read the following passages of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) Acts 19:8-20, and Ephesians 4:17-32.

1. What conditions led to God moving in such powerful ways in Ephesus? Specifically, what do we see Paul and the other believers doing (and not doing)?
2. In the Ephesians 4 passage, the Ephesians are commanded to put off the old self, and to put on the new self. How does Paul describe each of these? Can believers simultaneously live in both the old and new selves? Why or why not?
3. How do believers "put away" sins?

**Roots:** Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. Please read Titus 2:11-14. Have you ever considered renunciation as a spiritual discipline? If so, what have you renounced in the past to live a more godly life?
2. What other spiritual disciplines are helping you to personally connect with God?

**Trunk:** Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful, but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. We all want to experience mighty works of God. Do you have any doubts that prevent you from believing that God can still move in such ways? What can you do to grow your faith in the God of extraordinary miracles, healings, liberation, and the Gospel?

**Crown:** Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. What lessons can we learn by contrasting Paul and the hapless sons of Sceva?
2. Is the Holy Spirit using this text to lead you toward action in any other ways?

