



HomeGroup Discussion Questions

Week 8: Oct 31-Nov 6

THIS IS COMMUNION SUNDAY! YOU CAN PREPARE THE ELEMENTS FOR YOUR GROUP OR HAVE THEM BRING THEIR OWN.

PICK 2-3 QUESTIONS FROM BELOW THAT YOU FEEL WILL HELP YOUR GROUP MOST. QUESTIONS 8 OR 9 ARE ESPECIALLY RELEVANT TO THE SERMON.

“About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way” (Acts 19:23). No-little-disturbance. How could the good news about Jesus inspire a mob to form and shout in protest? Answer: the good news was a *disturbance*. The message of the gospel interferes with the status quo—of our lives, our communities, and our culture. And as it does, transformation takes place...but so does irritation!

MAIN TEXT: Acts 19 (with emphasis on verses 18-41)

CONNECT

1. What stood out to you most in the sermon?

2. What's your (least) favorite Nicholas Cage movie?

Thomas says idols “overpromise but underdeliver...kind of like a Nicholas Cage movie trailer in comparison to the actual movie”! If you're not sure who Nicholas Cage is, skip the question!

LEARN

3. What examples do you see of lives being transformed by God's power in chapter 19? Where do you see opposition to God?

This question might take a bit of time to answer because it relates to all of chapter 19. What we see, though, is that people in Ephesus come to faith, incredible miracles are performed through Paul, and the city—even the region—is impacted by the gospel. On the other side, Paul is opposed by those who won't be transformed.

4. Part of Paul's message is that “gods made with hands are not gods” (v. 26). Why do you think this was offensive to Demetrius and others in Ephesus?

This simple claim threatened Demetrius' well-being, his confidence in the Ephesian way of life, etc. It also challenged the source of pride and commerce that Ephesus was known for.

5. How would you explain Demetrius' opposition in verses 23-27? What was motivating him to rally others against "the Way"?

This question overlaps with the previous one. Demetrius' way of life was threatened and others were likely as well, so Demetrius goes out of his way to explain how dangerous "the Way" was to their status quo.

6. According to Pastor Thomas, what is an idol and why do idols have no place in the life of a Christian?

Thomas gives several different definitions. Two of them are listed below in question 8 below.

APPLY

7. Do you think the gospel "disturbs" our world today? If so, how does it cause a disturbance? If not, why doesn't it have this kind of impact?

8. What are the idols today in our setting that need to be called out? To help, think through the words of the sermon:

What things overpromise (with respect to hope, significance, identity, comfort, etc.) but are destined to underdeliver?

What otherwise good things have we made ultimate things?

This is the major focus of the sermon this week. This question is intentionally vague by using "in our setting" so that you can either ask it about the idols "out there" in our culture or communities, OR you can ask it more personally about our individual lives. The choice is up to you, depending on how vulnerable you feel your group is able to be.

9. What step or two could you take to root out an idol in your life?

This is personal, so it could be helpful for you to think through how you would answer it in your own life and then go first answering it in your group as a way to help them feel safe as they follow your lead.