

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

MAR. 15 & 16 - ACTS 19 - PAUL & THE "BELIEVERS" IN EPHESUS

OPENING QUESTION

Can you think of a time when you were really worn out physically or spiritually? What were the circumstances that led to your weariness? What took place that resulted in overcoming it?

READ TOGETHER

Acts 19:1-7

BIG IDEA

God created a means by which we don't have to live a worn-out life, but in the power He provided for us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Having read Acts 19:1-7 as a group, what stands out to you about this story? What seems odd or unique?
- 2) Paul asks the Ephesus believers two questions. What are they? How are they answered by the believers?
- 3) Read Matthew 3:1-12. What did John the Baptist say about his role? How did he compare his role to Jesus' role?
- 4) As you read Acts 19:5-6, what happened that changes the lives of these believers? From what you read, how do you think their lives were changed in terms of everyday life?
- 5) Have group members read John 14:15-18, 25-27 and John 16:5-15. What is Jesus telling His disciples about what will happen after He goes back to the Father?
- 6) Have group members read Ephesians 5:17-18; Galatians 5:16-18, 25 and 1 Thessalonians 5:19. What does Paul tell us in these verses about what our relationship with the Holy Spirit is to look like?
- 7) In light of all the territory we've covered in this Bible study, how do you feel about your relationship with the Holy Spirit? What do you sense about how you are keeping in step with the Spirit these days?

CHALLENGE

This week commit to asking your heavenly Father to fill you with His Spirit each morning. As well, when you encounter challenging moments – at work, at home, at school, in relationships, stop and ask God to fill you with His Spirit and the power and wisdom His Spirit brings to your life to face that occasion.

PRAYER

Pause for some quiet time as a group for a couple of minutes. Individually, try to think of one challenging element of your life that you are facing right now. It could be something you are facing relationally, vocationally, financially, physically or something else. Then, as you can, share of that challenge and ask God for His Spirit to fill you to face that challenge.

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NEXT STEP

A great resource to read on this subject of the person, work and filling of the Holy Spirit is Francis Chan's little book *Forgotten God*. If you're interested, you will find more information about it at <http://www.forgottengod.com/> or by going to amazon.ca to find the book. It's a great and challenging read!

The Small Group video study is available for free on RightNowMedia! If you do not have access, just contact Ryan Brammer – rbrammer@rockpointe.ca

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