

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of September 28, 2014

**This Week's Focus:** How the power of the gospel comes to the City of Ephesus.

**This Week's Text:** Acts 19

*An idol is anything in our lives that occupies the place that should be occupied by God alone. Anything that is central in my life. An idol is anything by which I live, and on which I depend [and, I might add, anything I feel that I cannot live without]. An idol is anything that holds such a controlling position in my life that it moves and rouses and attracts much of my time and attention, [passions of both joy and anger], my energy, and my money. **Martin Lloyd-Jones***

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. **1 Corinthians 12:12-13***

**Related Texts:** John 5:39-40, Romans 8:9, Mark 1:7-8, Ephesians 1:13, Philippians 3:8-9, Matthew 27:45-46

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- What do we know about Ephesus?
- Recall what we know about Apollos (Acts 18:24-28). How does that account for the problem of these men? Reference Acts 19:1-2.
- What are some of the options in distinguishing whom the disciples were in verse 2?
  - What was John's baptism?
- Read Romans 8:9 and discuss if it is possible to be a Christ follower and not receive the Holy Spirit?
  - Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 and Ephesians 1:12-13. Discuss Paul's teaching on Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- Discuss and compare the giving of the Spirit on the first Day of Pentecost and the other 3 “mini-Pentecost” in Acts, 8, 10 and 19. What was being fulfilled? Reference Acts 11:15.
- What happened to the disciples, by the laying on of hands, when they were filled with the Holy Spirit? Should we expect the same things to happen to us today?
- Paul is then rejected in the synagogue but rents a hall to teach and preach. What opportunities do you have to teach the word of God?
- God was doing extraordinary things through the ministry of Paul. Do you think this is normative for today? Why is it important to distinguish between a prescriptive and descriptive text when interpreting the bible?
- How does verse 12 tie in with verses 13-20? What can we learn from the incident with the sons of Sceva's failed attempt to confront the man possessed by demons? Discuss the biblical and holistic approach to dealing with people.
- Discuss what happened as God displays His omnipotent power.
- Read verses 21-41 and discuss the incident that took place.
  - What are the main issues being confronted and what is the result?
  - According to Demetrius, what was Paul's message?
- Why is idolatry harder to identify today than it was in antiquity?
- How does the bible define idolatry? Why is it powerful and empty?
- According to our text, what was happening as the gospel was impacting culture?
- Read verses 17-20 and discuss how the “expulsive power” of the gospel tears down idols in our life. Reference Philippians 3:8-9.

### **Gospel Celebration:**

- Jesus doesn't escape an angry mob but willingly lays down his life for us.
- Jesus bows his head and enters the storm of sin and evil to set us free to worship Him!
- Jesus tastes death and hell and pays the penalty for our idolatry.

### **Next Week's Text:** Acts 20