SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 19

The Word Grew Mightily in Ephesus

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 19:20

"So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 19

In Ephesus the name of Jesus met magic, money and a mob — and the word of the Lord kept growing. This week He asks you the question the twelve men had to answer, and the one the evil spirit asked the sons of Sceva: do you just know about Jesus, or do you belong to Him? Bring Him your hidden things; His word is stronger than all of them.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Into What Were You Baptized?

READ · ACTS 19:1–7

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What two questions does Paul ask the disciples, what do they answer, and what happens when Paul points them to Jesus (19:2–6)?

REFLECT

These men had repented under John but "not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit" (19:2). Where has your faith been sincere but incomplete — real effort, but not yet resting on Jesus Himself?

REFLECT

John told the people "to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus" (19:4). What would change this week if you stopped trying harder and started trusting Jesus more?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray today: "Lord Jesus, fill me with Your Spirit again — I am a reservoir, not a fountain," and name one place you need His help.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 19:20)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Hall Next Door

READ · ACTS 19:8–12

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How long did Paul teach in the synagogue, what made him leave, where did he go, and how far did the word spread (19:8–10)?

REFLECT

Some "were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way" (19:9). Where have you watched your own heart start to harden — and what did it sound like when it came out of your mouth?

REFLECT

When one door closed, Paul taught "daily" for two years in another place (19:9–10). What door has closed on you lately, and what might the next "hall" be?

RESPOND — TODAY

Set a time and place to open God's Word every day this week, even for ten minutes, and keep it like Paul kept the hall of Tyrannus.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 19:20)

DAY 3 OF 5

Burn the Books

READ · ACTS 19:13–20

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the sons of Sceva say, what did the evil spirit answer, and what did the new believers do with their magic books (19:13–19)?

REFLECT

The spirit said, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" (19:15). If that question were asked about you, what would the honest answer be?

REFLECT

The believers came "confessing and disclosing their practices" and burned books worth "fifty thousand pieces of silver" (19:18–19). What do you still keep hidden — or keep around "just in case" — that God is asking you to bring into the light?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell one trusted brother about one hidden thing today, and then get rid of it — delete it, throw it out, or hand it over.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 19:20)

DAY 4 OF 5

Great Is Artemis

READ · ACTS 19:21–34

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Demetrius say his trade depended on, what did Paul's preaching say about gods made with hands, and what did the crowd shout for two hours (19:25–28, 34)?

REFLECT

Demetrius said, "our prosperity depends upon this business" (19:25). What "business" — money, comfort, a habit, a reputation — would be threatened if you followed Jesus all the way?

REFLECT

"The majority did not know for what reason they had come together" (19:32). When have you been swept up in a crowd, an argument or a cause without stopping to think — and what did it cost you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one thing you have been treating like a god "made with hands" (19:26), and pray over it by name, asking Jesus to take its place.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 19:20)

DAY 5 OF 5

Do Nothing Rash

READ · ACTS 19:35–41

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the town clerk say about Paul's companions, where did he tell Demetrius to take his complaint, and how did the riot end (19:37–41)?

REFLECT

The clerk told the crowd "you ought to keep calm and to do nothing rash" (19:36). Where is anger or panic pushing you toward something rash right now?

REFLECT

God used an unbelieving city official to protect His people (19:35–41). Where have you seen God protect you through someone you would never have expected?

RESPOND — TODAY

Before you react to the next thing that makes you angry today, stop, breathe, and pray one sentence before you speak.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 19:20)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

The twelve men needed someone to explain the rest of the story about Jesus (19:1–5), as Priscilla and Aquila had done for Apollos (18:26). Who has done that for you, and who might you do it for?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Confession in Ephesus was public and it cost real money (19:18–19). What would it look like for our group to be a safe place to bring hidden things into the light?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Paul's preaching hurt the idol business in Ephesus (19:25–27). Where should the gospel be making a difference in how we earn and spend money?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I don't want only to know about You — I want to belong to You, so today I bring You the things I have kept hidden and ask You to…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 19:20

"So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing."