

# BGCC Community Group Guide



## Acts: Living The Mission

May 31st, 2026

### Revival and Riot

Acts 19

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## Section 1 - Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Acts 19:1-4 | Romans 6:3-4

### Summary

Baptism is a symbol of our salvation and new life in Christ. It publicly declares that we belong to Jesus and identifies us with His death, burial, and resurrection. Baptism was never meant to point people to a preacher, movement, or tradition. To be baptized into “John’s baptism” or “Paul’s baptism” misses the point entirely.

John's ministry was always meant to point beyond itself to Jesus. The focus of baptism is not the person performing it, the church administering it, or the tradition behind it—it is Christ. Our identity, our salvation, and our allegiance are found in Him alone.

**Group Question:** In what ways are we tempted to find our identity in something other than Christ? (Denominations, traditions, favorite teachers, theological labels, etc.)

### Personal Relevance

It's common to hear people identify themselves by a denomination, theological system, or Christian movement. While those things can be helpful, they can never become the foundation of our identity. When they do, our focus subtly shifts away from Christ and onto something lesser.

**Flow Question:** What dangers arise when we place our identity primarily in a denomination, movement, or theological label?

**Reflection Question:** What practical steps can help keep Christ at the center of your identity and faith? (This term is called *Christocentric*)

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## Section 2 - Sacrifice and Surrender

**Acts 19:5-20**

### Summary

This passage shows that a genuine encounter with Jesus produces genuine surrender. As the believers in Ephesus came to understand who Christ truly was, they didn't simply add Him to their lives—they submitted to Him as Lord. Their response was costly. They publicly confessed their sins and burned valuable occult scrolls, willingly giving up things that had once shaped their identity and security.

Following Jesus requires surrendering anything that competes with His lordship. The believers were willing to let go because Christ had become more valuable than anything they left behind.

**Group Question:** What is something (or someone even?) in your life that you would struggle to surrender if Christ asked you to?

### Personal Relevance

Most of us understand the need to surrender obvious sins. But sometimes God calls us to surrender things that are not sinful in themselves—our comfort, our plans, our resources, our time, or even relationships. The challenge is learning to hold every good gift with open hands.

**Flow Question:** How can we prepare our hearts to surrender even good things if Christ calls us to do so?

**Reflection Question:** What do you think are some things that, while good, God may want to have you surrender or use in another way?

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## Section 3 - Idols and Worship

**Acts 19:23-33**

### Summary

The uproar in Ephesus reveals what happens when the gospel confronts people's idols. As more people turn to Christ, devotion to Artemis declines, threatening the livelihood of those who

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profited from idol worship. The conflict exposes a timeless truth: everyone worships something. Whether it is a false god, money, comfort, success, security, or approval, our idols are revealed when Jesus challenges the things we value most. The gospel calls us to transfer our worship from created things to the Creator.

Jesus does not simply ask for part of our devotion—He calls us to identify and abandon every idol so that He alone receives our worship.

**Group Question:** What are some common idols in our lives that don't look like traditional idol worship?

## Personal Relevance

Idolatry takes many forms. Anything that captures our hearts and directs our loyalty away from God can become an idol. One of the most common idols in modern culture is self. We are constantly encouraged to prioritize our own desires, comfort, and fulfillment above all else. This is a form of self-worship.

**Flow Question:** What are some ways our culture encourages people to prioritize themselves over others and God?

**Reflection Question:** How can you guard against making yourself the center of your own worship?

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## Closing Summary

### Summary

Acts 19 reminds us that authentic faith is rooted in Christ, demonstrated through surrender, and expressed through worship. Our identity is not found in a denomination, movement, or spiritual leader—it is found in Christ alone. Our faith is not merely intellectual agreement but wholehearted surrender to His lordship. And our worship belongs to God alone, not to the idols that constantly compete for our hearts.

The world continually invites us to build our identity, purpose, and security on things other than Christ. But the gospel calls us to remain faithful, surrender what competes with Him, and worship Him above all else.

### Application

This week, take time to honestly evaluate your heart. Where do you find your identity? What are you holding onto most tightly? What receives your greatest affection and attention?

Ask God to reveal anything that competes with Christ for first place in your life. Then take one practical step toward deeper surrender and greater devotion to Him.