

March 15, 2026 Study Guide

Mission Possible: When God Moves, Resistance Pushes Back

Passage: Acts of the Apostles 19:21–41

1. The Movement of God

After powerful ministry in **Ephesus**, **Paul the Apostle** begins planning the next phase of his missionary journey. The gospel is spreading rapidly and transforming lives throughout the region.

Read

Acts 19:21–22

Questions

1. What plans does Paul make for his next missionary steps?
 2. What do Paul's plans reveal about his commitment to God's mission?
 3. Why is it important to recognize that God is the one building His church?
 4. Where have you seen evidence of God moving in your life or community?
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2. The Resistance to the Gospel

As the gospel spreads, opposition rises. A silversmith named **Demetrius the silversmith** realizes that the success of the gospel threatens his livelihood and the idol trade connected to the worship of **Artemis**.

Read

Acts 19:23–27

Questions

1. Why was Demetrius upset about Paul's message?
 2. What was the real motivation behind his complaint—religious devotion or financial concern?
 3. How did Demetrius escalate the issue to influence others?
 4. Why does the gospel often threaten systems built on false beliefs?
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3. Chaos and Confusion

Demetrius' speech sparks a massive public reaction in **Ephesus**, and a riot begins. Many people join the crowd even though they don't understand what is happening.

Read

Acts 19:28–34

Questions

1. How does the crowd respond to Demetrius' message?
 2. What evidence shows that the crowd was acting irrationally?
 3. Why do large crowds sometimes act emotionally rather than rationally?
 4. What does this moment reveal about the power of fear and influence?
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4. Wisdom Brings Calm

A city official finally calms the crowd and reminds them that there is no legitimate reason for the riot.

Read

Acts 19:35–41

Questions

1. How does the town clerk restore order?
 2. Why does he encourage the crowd to resolve issues legally instead of through chaos?
 3. What role do wise leaders play during moments of conflict?
 4. What does this moment show about God's ability to protect His mission?
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5. The Riot in Our Hearts

Just as there was resistance to the gospel in Ephesus, there can also be resistance within our own hearts when God begins to transform our lives.

Reflection Questions

1. Why do people sometimes resist the changes God wants to make in their lives?
 2. What are some modern "idols" that compete with our devotion to God?
 3. When have you experienced spiritual "pushback" while trying to follow God?
 4. What obstacles might be disrupting the movement of God in your life right now?
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