

3. **Read Acts 19:18-20.** Despite the fact that they were now believers, many Ephesian Christians had kept their books on the “magic arts.”

- What are some examples of “spiritual baggage” that modern-day believers may be tempted to hold on to?
- How do these practices and habits serve to actually distract from the gospel message?
- How did Jesus command us to deal with besetting sins (see Matthew 5:29-30)?

4. **Read Acts 19:23-28.** What leads Demetrius and the other “idol-makers” to violently object to the message of the gospel? Although the craftsmen loudly proclaim the greatness of the goddess Artemis, who do they actually worship? In what ways does the gospel confront the social norms of our communities?
5. **Read Acts 19:35-41.** Luke records the town clerk’s declaration: “There is no cause that we can give to justify [the riot caused by the craftsmen].” What are some reasons that our society rejects the message of the gospel? How might you answer these objections?
6. **Read Acts 19 and Psalm 1.** One pastor (our own Steve Jaspers) observes that the digression from the gospel within Acts 19 closely resembles the progression of hostility found in Psalm 1 from wicked to sinners to scoffers. How can Christians engage our culture to stop this escalation?

Note: We will not have Life Groups next week, October 2. Instead, we invite you to remain with us for a praise service, which, Lord willing, will include welcoming new members and several baptisms in addition to our observance of the Lord's Supper. Please make plans to stay with us for this time of special time of worship and celebration.

Some questions are based on questions from Tony Merida's commentary: *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in Acts* (B&H Publishing Group, 2017)