

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **November 8, 2020** sermon, "Twelve Men in All." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 19:1-10) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

IN TIMES OF TRANSITION . . .

1. Pose critical questions directing people toward Jesus Christ (1-7)
 - a. Urban and diverse Ephesus brings a consistent resistance from religious people.
 - b. In order to determine true conversion to Jesus, Paul asks questions:
 - i. Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed on Jesus?
 - ii. If not, then what exactly were you baptized into?
 - iii. These religious people were open to Jesus and even close to him, but not yet Christ followers. Spiritual (religious) "fog" had kept them from Jesus.
 - c. There exists a superficial "discipleship" which is inauthentic. Don't stop short of Jesus!
2. Pursue creative options, teaching people about Jesus Christ (8-10)
 - a. Where there is (religious) opposition, there is opportunity.
 - b. Paul moved the primary place of ministry OUT of the synagogue and INTO the lecture hall. Instead of "church," they met at the "university hall."
 - i. There he reasoned (had conversations, answering their questions).
 - ii. There he persuaded (drawing them to connect dots about Jesus, the Messiah).
 - c. The whole region began to understand the distinctions Paul made about Jesus.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: What are some of the effective methods of reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ which were utilized when you were younger? By what means were you reached with the gospel? Which methods which may have worked 20 years ago are no longer effective?
2. Based on #1, above: People may bear the marks of Christianity such as church attendance, singing hymns and teaching Sunday School, but still not be true disciples of Jesus Christ. What crucial questions should be asked of people today to ensure they are truly converted to Jesus? Note that Paul's questions surrounded a total embrace of God's Word (especially about the Holy Spirit) and a total embrace of God's Son. Where do religious people in our day fall short of a total embrace of God's Word or God's Son?
3. Based on #1, above: Paul made a judgment that the religious people of Ephesus had fallen short of truly following Jesus. What are the tensions between "good judgment" 'about authentic Christianity and being "judgmental" of people? How do you wisely remain balanced here?
4. Based on #2, above: For two years, Paul taught people about Jesus in a civic setting rather than a religious setting. He had LESS opposition and more fruitfulness in the civic setting. What civic settings are open to you today? Are you willing and motivated to try new methods? Talk about smaller in-person connections and FaceTime/Zoom/video options.
5. Based on #2, above: How can you improve at calm "reasoning" with people about Jesus? Based on your level of love, grace and patience, would people be persuaded by you?