

TABLE TALK

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for October 2-October 8, 2022

“ACTS IN 30” Chapter 19: Knowing Jesus Through the Holy Spirit

CHAPTER OVERVIEW: Acts 19 record the events of Paul’s 3rd missionary journey – his final one recorded in the Book of Acts. All of the events for this chapter and the next center around the city of **Ephesus**, which was a proud and prosperous port city steeped in idol worship. This week we pick up the story of the gospel spreading to Ephesus at the end of Acts 18. In this story, a believer named Apollos - who was a powerful preacher of the Gospel – needed to be “*taken aside*” to have **Jesus** explained to him “*more accurately*” (v. 26).

DAY 1: Priscilla and Aquila Explain the Holy Spirit to Apollos the Preacher

READ: Acts 18:24-28

REFLECT: A powerful Jewish convert – Apollos – arrives in Ephesus and begins preaching about Jesus in the synagogues. Priscilla and Aquila heard him speak and – noticing that something was a little “off” about what he was saying – decided to graciously pull him aside. Apparently, Apollos only “*knew John’s baptism*” (v. 25) and needed an encounter with the Holy Spirit to **know Jesus more fully**.

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: Describe what do you think it means to only, “*know John’s baptism*” (v. 18:25)?

Application Question: Have you had an encounter with the Holy Spirit since receiving Jesus as your Lord and Savior? If so, what are some ways that the experience helped you to understand Jesus more fully and accurately - like we see in Apollos’ life?

DAY 2: John the Baptists’ Disciples in Ephesus Did Not Know about the Holy Spirit

READ: Acts 19:1-10

REFLECT: Paul arrives in Ephesus and meets with some believers who – like Apollos – must have shared something that revealed that they had also not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit (only John’s “*baptism of repentance*” - v. 4). After Paul laid his hands on them, these 12 men received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and began “*speaking in tongues and prophesying*” (vs. 6).

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: Take a moment to re-read the story in Acts 10 when the Apostle Peter goes to Cornelius’ house. In what ways are these two stories similar? What are some ways they are different?

Application Question: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit gives believers **power to witness** for Jesus (Acts 1:8). Speaking in tongues **edifies/builds up the faith of the believer** while prophesy **builds up the church** (1 Cor.14:4). Have you personally spoken in tongues or prophesied before like these believers in Ephesus did? If so, what was that experience like?

DAY 3: The 7 Sons of Sceva Didn’t Know Jesus nor the Power of the Holy Spirit

READ: Acts 19:11-17

REFLECT: The Lord manifests many miraculous signs and wonders at the hands of Paul in Ephesus and some unbelieving Jewish exorcists start following him. These unbelieving Jewish exorcists may have known about God, but **they did not know Jesus** nor the power of the Holy Spirit. In one of the more humorous stories in Acts, demons who they tried to exorcise beat them up and made them run (v. 16)!

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: James 2:19 says that, “*Even the demons believe...and tremble*” at the name of Jesus! If it is so “easy” for demons to believe and “*know Jesus*” (Acts 19:15), why is it so hard for people to believe and **know Jesus**?

Application Question: The 7 Sons of Sceva in this story were like outsiders looking in. They wanted to the power of God and the glory of having that power, but they were not willing to submit their lives to Jesus - look what happened to them! Does this story motivate you to keep sharing Jesus with those who are, “on the outside looking in” putting faith in Him?

DAY 4: The Rioters in Ephesus Did Not Want to Know God at All

READ: Acts 19:18-41

REFLECT: While many pagans “confessed” and publicly renounced their idolatry (v. 19), many more in Ephesus stir up a riot and the Holy Spirit tells Paul to leave for Macedonia. Ephesus was known for their worship of a Greek goddess – Artemis (or Roman name, “Diana”) and they would not abandon their worship of her in her temple, which was listed as one of the “7 Wonders of the World.”

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: Accepting Jesus threatened their livelihood and well as their beliefs (v. 25). Where do you see that in today’s world?

Application Question: Written by the Apostle John nearly 40 years after the events in Acts 19, Revelation 2 shows Jesus speaking to several churches. The **church at Ephesus** grew strong and received many compliments from Jesus, but in Rev.2:4, **Jesus warns the church at Ephesus** to, return to their “*first love*?” What does that phrase mean to you?
