

## AUTHOR-ITY IN JESUS' NAME — Acts 19:11-20

### LIFEGROUP LEADER'S GUIDE

Leader's notes are **GREEN**

#### **Before You Meet**

**#1.** If you already have close relationships with those in your LifeGroup (it is only October so if you are not there yet don't feel bad!) consider emailing your group ahead of time, telling them there will be an opportunity for confession at LifeGroup this week. This exercise is at the end of the guide. Again, ***only do this exercise if you have a growing sense of close fellowship in your group.*** Otherwise, feel free to skip it entirely.

**#2.** Watch "[The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis Doodle](#)" (click for link) on YouTube. Have it downloaded or queued up to watch on a TV or computer. [The bigger the screen, the better: this is quality stuff right here!] Alternatively you could have the chapter (Chapter VII) printed out for all of your group and pre-pick portions of it you will read together. Full text available [here](#) (click for link). *Note: Screwtape Letters is an imaginative theology book by Lewis. He pictures a "senior" demon advising a "junior" demon on how to tempt humans in their rebellion against God. Whenever you read the Screwtape Letters it's important to understand each chapter is a letter to a demon and from a demon. Thus, references to "The Enemy" or "enemies" actually refer to God and Christians/angels.*

#### **The Picture That Comes to Mind . . .**

Tell everyone you're going to play a word association game. You're going to say a word and then everyone will have a chance to share/describe (or if you're creative, doodle!) the first image that comes to their mind.

1. Satan
2. Demon
3. Evangelism
4. Miracle
5. Exorcism

#### **The Christian Body as a Temple**

Read Acts 19:1-7.

1. How do you make sense of this passage considering what you already know about John the Baptist, baptism, and the Holy Spirit?

TEACH that . . .

- A. In Ephesus people worshipped at a number of Temples. One such Temple was to the goddess Artemis (also called Diana). You can show them a [modern rendition of the temple](#) and the [goddess Artemis](#) (click links).
- B. On Sunday Ryan taught that . . . "When God made the earth it was at first a cosmic Temple. He established the world to be a sacred place of worship for his presence with humanity. Scripture tells us that God gave humans "dominion" over the earth. We were meant to be his Princes and Princesses, under-rulers. We're also called his Image on the earth. Humans were to be God's Kingly representatives to the natural world. We were meant to ensure God's Kingdom reigned on the earth; bow to him as the good King."

- C. When John the Baptist came he made a way for the Gospel message by helping people realize they were disobedient to God's Reign. **Read Matthew 3.**
- D. Paul was showing the Ephesians that God's Divine presence was not experienced in any of their Greek/pagan Temples (i.e.: Temple of Diana), just as it was no longer found in the "sacred" space of the Jewish Temple... God's Divine presence is meant to be experienced among the WHOLE WORLD. All of the world is supposed to be a "sacred" Temple. But until the world returns to its perfect state, God turns his people (Christians) into Temples by sending his Spirit into their souls/bodies.
- E. In Acts 19:1-7 Paul was ensuring that the Ephesian disciples did not just know about God in a natural way, but they experienced God's supernatural presence in themselves. These Ephesians became Temples.
  - 2. Let's ask ourselves the same question Paul asks the Ephesians! *Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?*

Help everyone understand that they have either (A) believed and therefore received God's Spirit, or (B) have not believed and therefore do not have God's supernatural presence. This instance of receiving God's presence later on, after belief, is *not* normative. Elsewhere in Acts, and more regularly, people receive God's presence when they bow to Jesus as King.

- 3. Have there been any moments in your Christian journey when you saw God's supernatural presence in your personal life?

### **Types of Evangelism**

Remind people that during the sermon we imagined evangelism as announcing the Kingly Reign of Jesus: *"Paul and all the early Christians are going over the Roman Empire proclaiming Jesus is God, King, son of god, and rightful ruler over the physical dimension and they are calling this THE ultimate "good news." Here's Paul entering Ephesus where they worshipped Augustus as Emperor and god, as son of god, and they viewed his work as ruler as bringing "good news" for the whole world. Paul's good news of God's Non-Geographic Kingdom of Light was subversive and counter-cultural to the Ephesian's very way of life."*

**Read Ephesians 19:8-10.**

- 1. In what ways and in what settings does Paul evangelize in these verses?
- 2. Can you remember other ways and other settings where Paul/apostles evangelized previously in Acts? (Perhaps look up some references ahead of time).

TEACH that . . .

Timothy Keller points out five types of evangelism we see in Acts:

- I. Preaching Evangelism (in synagogues) — Was with biblically literate people, consisted of long Bible sermons.
- II. Contact Evangelism (in marketplace) — Evangelism to strangers, consisting of short gospel presentations and brief dialogue.
- III. Friendship Evangelism (in homes and personal life) — With friends and relatives, informal conversation.
- IV. Apologetic Evangelism (see Paul in the Areopagus, cf: Acts 17:22-34; ["Gospel Green Thumbs" sermon Nov. 2017](#)) — Consisted of a well-reasoned defence of the gospel, using well respected authorities and sources.
- V. Dialogue Evangelism (public place, educational facilities, here in Acts 19) — Allowing the non-Christian listener to set the agenda and ask questions about faith.

3. Make a list of ways that our church, your ministry, or yourself can participate in the five methods of evangelism we have seen in Acts. (Email your list to the pastoral staff!)

### **The War of Two Non-Geographic Kingdoms**

Read Acts 19:11-20.

**Watch or Read portions of *The Screwtape Letters*, chapter VII.**

**Provide background on this resource (see intro).**

READ this quote from the sermon . . . *“Many of us in modern society give little thought to a supernatural reality. Most of us are materialists: nothing exists beyond the physical realm. We follow scientific reductionism, meaning every phenomena is explainable through observable scientific reasoning. In short, we either believe nothing exists beyond what we can experience with our five senses, or we pay little attention to what might exist beyond our senses.”*

1. Do you find it hard to be a supernaturalist v.s. a reductionistic materialist or naturalist? Why or why not?
2. What was your biggest takeaway from Sunday's sermon regarding your perspective on the story of God, angels, Satan, demons and humanity? Was your perspective challenged? Changed?
3. Does any part of *The Screwtape Letters* chapter highlight how you might be affected by Satan/demon temptation, personally?

### **Confession**

Determine which option you will choose based on the dynamic of your group (see introduction).

1. **OPTION ONE — Confessing Distorted Understanding of Reality**
  - **Reread v17-19.** Remind everyone of this definition of confession: *confessing means agreeing with God about reality.*
    1. Would anyone be willing to share with the group how they are either struggling to agree with God about reality, or how they might have struggled to agree with God about reality in the past?
2. **OPTION TWO — Confession Personal Sin**
  - **Split your group between men and women.**
  - **Reread v17-19.** Remind everyone of this definition of confession: *confessing means agreeing with God about reality.*
    1. Earlier this week an email was sent out telling you there would be an opportunity to confess personal sin this week. Is there a sin anyone would like to confess confidentially among our group tonight?
  - If someone confesses thank them for “shining light” on their sin and remind them they are completely forgiven in Jesus' Name. [do not miss this!]
  - Pray for them, thanking God for their bravery to defeat Satan's strongholds in their life, thanking God for his grace and forgiven, and praying for strength to keep fighting sin.