



# ACTS

Of All the Apostles

## You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

## Lesson 37



# Ephesus

Acts 19:1-20:1

## Supplemental Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-3

James 1:22

Ephesians 4:20-5:21

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians 5:19-24

## Memory Verse

You must worship only the LORD your God. He is the one who will rescue you from all your enemies.

2 Kings 17:39 (NLT)

## Lesson Goals

Understand that Paul shared God's Word boldly

Understand that there is power in Jesus' name

Understand that the believers in Ephesus repented of their sin

**NOTE:** Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

Have you ever started a new race, or regimen of running, with the same old shoes you've used for years? Maybe you even have new shoes, but you like the way the old ones feel on your feet. The old shoes no longer give your feet support, though, and they are just not right for the race. Sometimes your shoelaces are so knotted and twisted and broken that you can't even keep them tied. What you really need to do is throw the old ones out. Your new shoes are better, even if they aren't broken in yet. Let's see what any of that has to do with our lesson.

"While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road to Ephesus," where Apollos had been earlier. (Acts 19:1 NIV) He spoke to believers when he arrived, but realized they had never heard of the Holy Spirit. Remember, when Apollos began talking to people, he didn't quite understand everything. He taught what he knew, John the Baptist and his baptism. Aquila and Priscilla helped him to understand. Paul explained to these believers that, "John baptized people, calling them to turn away from their sins. He told them to believe in the One who was coming after him. Jesus is that One. After hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 19:4-5 NIV) They also received the Holy Spirit. There were about twelve of them.

It was from here in Ephesus that Paul wrote a letter to the believers in Corinth, First Corinthians. Paul also went to the synagogues. For three months he spoke to them boldly. "He tried to talk the people into accepting his teaching about God's kingdom." (Acts 19:8 NIV) Some of them wouldn't listen, but worse still, they refused to believe. Then they started saying terrible things about following Jesus. Paul wasn't going to put up with it. He left with the believers and they went to the Lecture Hall of Tyrannus. Every day for two years Paul taught the people there. "So all the Jews and Greeks who lived in Asia Minor heard the Word of the Lord." (Acts 19:10 NIV)

"God did amazing miracles through Paul." (Acts 19:11 NIV) People were healed of sicknesses and evil spirits left them. Some of the Jews thought they would try to be like Paul. They, too, "tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus to set free those who were controlled by demons." (Acts 19:13 NIV) When they did that, though, the evil spirits responded to

## Application

We started the lesson thinking about old shoes and such. Who can tell me what running a race with old shoes has to do with the lesson? If you need a hint, think about what the believers in Ephesus did when they began to honor the name of Jesus. They repented, or turned away from the wrong things they were doing. What had they been doing? They had been worshipping idols and practicing magic. What do those things have to do with running the race of faith? Absolutely nothing! It's like running a race with shoes that need to be thrown out.

Our memory verse says, "You must worship only the LORD your God." And maybe you are thinking that you don't worship other gods. Think about the things you do every day. What do you spend the most time doing? Have you ever thought that worshipping God means more than going to church on Sundays? It means letting your lifestyle glorify Him as well. Does your lifestyle please God? Will you commit to remove anything that gets in the way?

them and said, "We know Jesus, and we know about Paul, but we don't have any idea who you are!" And then they caused the man they were torturing to jump on the Jews and beat them up.

The people of Ephesus heard about this and it caused them to be afraid. The believers honored Jesus' name and they admitted the old practices they had continued with and turned from them. To show their repentance, or turning, those who had continued to practice magic brought out the papers they had once used and they set fire to them in public. And "the word of the Lord spread everywhere." (Acts 19:20a NIV)

Do you think everyone was excited about what happened in Ephesus? Of course not! What do you think happened after the believers turned away from their old practices of worshipping other gods and practicing magic?

Some of the business men got together and said, "you know that we make good money for our work. You have seen and heard what this fellow Paul is doing. He has talked to large numbers of people here in Ephesus. Almost everywhere in Asia Minor he has led people away from our god. He says that the gods we make are not gods at all. . . People's faith in the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be weakened." (Acts 19:25b-27a NIV) This started a riot throughout Ephesus. The great Theater of Ephesus was rushed and people were shouting all sorts of things. When Alexander, the Jew, wanted to speak, "they shouted the same thing for about two hours. 'Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!' they yelled." (Acts 19:34 NIV) The city clerk finally quieted them down and sent them all away. "All the trouble came to an end. Then Paul sent for the believers. After cheering them up, he said good-bye. He then left for Macedonia." (Acts 20:1 NIV) It was from Macedonia that Paul wrote his second letter to the believers in Corinth, the book of the Bible that we now know as Second Corinthians.

Next Week  
Macedonia and Greece  
Acts 20:1-12

# Preschool Lesson

Paul went to Ephesus, where Apollos had been earlier. It was from here in Ephesus that Paul wrote a letter to the believers in Corinth. You can find the letter in your Bibles. It is the book of First Corinthians. (Show them in your Bible.)

While Paul was in Ephesus, he went to the synagogues, or churches. For three months (One, two, three) he spoke to them without fear. “He tried to talk the people into accepting his teaching about God’s kingdom.” (Acts 19:8 Nlrv) Some of them wouldn’t listen, but worse still, they refused to believe. Then they started saying terrible things about following Jesus. Paul wasn’t going to put up with it. He left with the believers and they went to a place called the Lecture Hall of Tyrannus. Every day for two whole years Paul taught the people there! “So all the Jews and Greeks who lived in Asia Minor heard the word of the Lord.” (Acts 19:10 Nlrv)

“God did amazing miracles through Paul.” (Acts 19:11 Nlrv) People were healed of sicknesses and evil spirits left them. Some of the Jews thought they would try to be like Paul. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus to set people free from demons. When they did that, though, the evil spirits talked to them and said, “We know Jesus, and we know about Paul, but we don’t have any idea who you are!” And then they caused the man they were torturing to jump on the Jews and beat them up.

The people of Ephesus who heard about this were afraid. The believers respected and trusted Jesus’ name. They told others about the bad things they were doing, even though they had decided to follow Jesus. They turned from them. And to show that they had turned away from these bad things, they brought the papers they had once used and burned them in public. And “the Word of the Lord spread everywhere.” (Acts 19:20a Nlrv)

Do you think everyone was excited about what happened in Ephesus? Of course not! What do you think happened after the believers turned away from their old practices of worshipping other gods and practicing magic?

Some of the business men got together and said, “You know that we make good money for our work. You have seen and heard what this fellow Paul is doing. He has talked to large numbers of people here in Ephesus. Almost everywhere in Asia Minor he has led people away from our god. He says that the gods we make are not gods at all. . . People’s faith in the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be weakened.” (Acts 19:25b-27a Nlrv) This started a riot throughout Ephesus. The great Theater of Ephesus was rushed and people were shouting all sorts of things. When Alexander, the Jew, wanted to speak, “they shouted the same thing for about two hours. ‘Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!’ they yelled.” (Acts 19:34 Nlrv) The city clerk finally quieted them down and sent them all away. “All the trouble came to an end. Then Paul sent for the believers. After cheering them up, he said good-bye. He then left for Macedonia.” (Acts 20:1 Nlrv) It was from Macedonia that Paul wrote his second letter to the believers in Corinth. You can find this letter in the Bible, too. It is the book of the Bible that we now know as Second Corinthians.

# Activities

**Memory Verse Activity** - Make a picture frame from craft sticks. Provide various craft items, like foam stickers, sequins, feathers, etc. Encourage your students to decorate their picture frame. Write the memory verse on construction paper suitable for “framing” in the frames each student has made.

Sing “Thy Word,” “Ancient Words,” “No Excuse,” “The Lord Has a Will,” “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus,” “Step by Step,” etc.

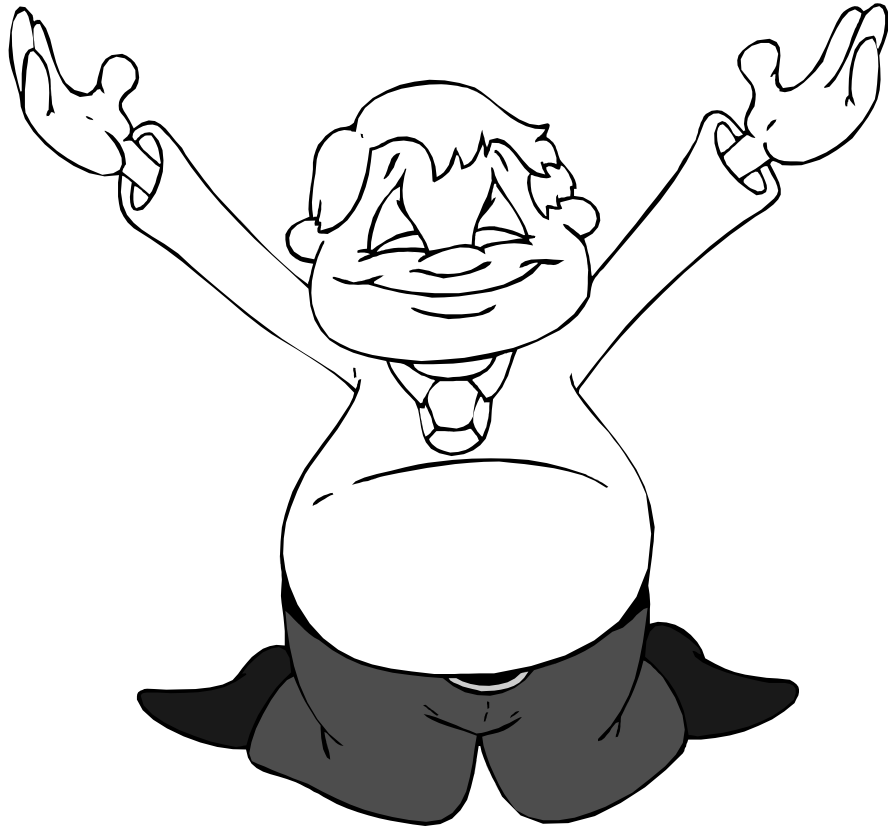
Be sure to mark the cities of Ephesus and Macedonia on your wall map.

Talk about how God’s Word spread throughout Asia Minor. What can you do to spread God’s Word in your city?

“The temple of the great goddess Artemis” (Acts 19:27) was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Talk about the other six as well. Discuss how many were actually devoted to the worship of other gods. If your students are interested, quiz them on the seven wonders of the modern world (*Christ Redeemer* in Brazil, *Chichen Itza* in Mexico, *the Roman Coliseum* in Italy, *The Great Wall of China*, the *Taj Majal* in India, *Machu Picchu* in Peru and *Petra*, Jordan) and show them pictures of each.

**Dig Deeper:** What are you holding onto in your life that you need to let go? The Ephesian believers burned the papers they had used in their magic. Read Galatians 5:19-34 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. Have a time for the believers in your class to commit to removing from their lives anything that doesn’t glorify, or honor, the name of Jesus.

As you continue memorizing Hebrews 12:1-3, focus on verse 1 where it says, “So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly.” The race of faith can not be won any other way.



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only the LORD your God.

He is the one  
who will rescue you  
from all your enemies.

2 Kings 17:39

# Racing Riddles

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Describe the word “repent” using each of the letters in the word.

**R**

**E**

**P**

**E**

**N**

**T**

# Word Search

y o w t n y r a f o p l m e t  
e a s w t a i p p i l u h e h  
p s s o i s d b w t l a m y e  
h h n y s r j s s u l p s o a  
i t n e p e r u r m l o s w t  
s t h a t p a s r e a l a t e  
u o t r h a h e o e h l l s r  
s m a s a p o f r i e o o r c  
s i g i f n a e e n r s n c i  
s t o t r r b a n r u b i s l  
e c i r t u y t a h t v c y l  
h t n e r b c h u m c a a d i  
b s m r s u s e h p e g o d h  
e i p l l o m n n u l r o t p  
s m e s s a g p h i l e p e r

Apollos

Paul

Ephesus

two years

Lecture Hall

Theater

Temple of Artemis

burn papers

repent



# Word Search

y o w t n y r a f o p l m e t  
e a s w t a i p p i l u h e h  
p s s o i s d b w t l a m y e  
h h n y s r j s s u l p s o a  
i t n e p e r u r m l o s w t  
s t h a t p a s r e a l a t e  
u o t r h a h e o e h l l s r  
s m a s a p o f r i e o o r c  
s i g i f n a e e n r s n c i  
s t o t r r b a n r u b i s l  
e c i r t u y t a h t v c y l  
h t n e r b c h u m c a a d i  
b s m r s u s e h p e g o d h  
e i p l l o m n n u l r o t p  
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