

WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday September 13, 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

02

Introduction

03

Discussion Questions

04

Application Questions

05

Questions for Families | Bible Reading Plan

06

Commentary

INTRODUCTION

In **Acts 19:11–20**, Jesus is not inviting people to add His name to their lives as another source of help, power, or religion. He is inviting them to trust Him personally as Lord and surrender anything that competes with Him. We often want the new life Jesus gives while still keeping parts of the old life within reach. But when Jesus becomes greater in our eyes, He begins exposing what needs to change. This passage invites us to move beyond knowing about Jesus toward personally trusting, following, and obeying Him.

Main Passage:

Acts 19:11–20

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Burn The Bridge

READ ALOUD

Acts 19:11–20

Opening Question: What is something you have had to completely get rid of because keeping it around made change harder?

- What differences do you notice between Paul and the sons of Sceva in this passage?
- How did the people respond when the name of Jesus was magnified?
- What does this passage show us about the difference between knowing about Jesus and actually belonging to Him?
- Where are we most tempted to add Jesus to our lives instead of surrendering our lives to Him?

APPLY

- Where are you tempted to rely on someone else's faith instead of personally trusting and following Jesus?
- What from your "old life" are you most tempted to keep within reach?
- What practical change could help you make no provision for that temptation?

RESPOND

- What is one thing you need to confess, remove, or surrender this week?
- Who is one trusted follower of Jesus you could invite to pray with you and help you walk in obedience?

DIGGING DEEPER *(optional)*

Acts 19:21–41

- What happens when the gospel begins disrupting the beliefs and practices of Ephesus?
- What do you notice about what people are afraid of losing?
- How does this section continue the contrast between Jesus and the idols people depend on?

PRAY

Give everyone a moment to ask God to reveal anything they may be holding onto that does not belong in their new life with Jesus. Pray for humility to confess what God exposes and courage to make practical changes rather than keeping temptation within reach. Ask God to help each person trust Jesus personally rather than depending on someone else's faith. Thank Jesus for His grace, forgiveness, and patient work of making His people more like Him.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Acts 19:11–20

- What do you notice about the power of Jesus in this story?
- Why couldn't the sons of Sceva simply use Jesus' name like a magic word?
- What did the believers do when they realized some things in their lives needed to change?
- What is one way we can show that Jesus is more important to us than anything else?

For younger children: Help your child understand that following Jesus means trusting Him ourselves and listening when He shows us something needs to change.

For older kids or students: Is there anything you keep close even though you know it makes following Jesus harder?

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- **Day 1:** Acts 20:1–6
- **Day 2:** Acts 20:7–12
- **Day 3:** Acts 20:13–16
- **Day 4:** Acts 20:17–27
- **Day 5:** Acts 20:28–38

What's Going On?

Paul is ministering in Ephesus, a city filled with idolatry, superstition, magic, and spiritual counterfeits. God works extraordinary miracles through Paul, but Luke makes it clear that the power belongs to God, not to Paul or to any object connected with him.

The sons of Sceva try to use the name of Jesus without actually knowing or following Him. Their failure exposes the difference between treating Jesus as a source of spiritual power and surrendering to Him as Lord. As Jesus is magnified, people begin confessing their practices and taking decisive action to leave their former lives behind. The result is that the word of the Lord continues to spread and prevail.

A Bit of Background

Ephesus was deeply connected to the worship of Artemis and was also known for magical and occult practices. That makes the public burning of the magic books especially significant. These believers were not simply admitting that their old practices were wrong—they were removing their way back to them.

Their repentance became visible and practical. They were demonstrating that Jesus was worth more to them than the practices, possessions, and security they once trusted.