



The Acts of the Spirit
DISTURBING THE PEACE

ACTS 19:8-10

“THE HALL”

OCTOBER 6, 2024

SUMMARY

Pastor Joey highlighted that we talk about the things we love. From food to our family, they roll off our tongues with joy. But perplexingly, Jesus is hard to speak about—but not in the early church. This is worth our attention, as highlighted in a few powerful verses in the Book of Acts.

This week, Paul is in Ephesus, preaching, teaching, training, and empowering leaders to take the Gospel to the end of the earth. He has been there for two years, which is a lifetime in comparison to other portions we've examined. Paul is flexing and adapting himself around the stubborn Jewish hearts, and as a result, he ends up teaching in pagan areas where the Gospel grows across Asia.

Pastor Joey said this stint in Ephesus is notable not only for its length but also for its effectiveness. We should seek to learn from God's church planting strategy through Paul and implement it in our own lives.

The strategy is as follows:

1. Build Small Groups of Jesus Followers into connected, supported, self-sufficient groups that gather to sing, pray, read, and obey scripture.
2. Teach members of those groups to explain what new life in Jesus means so they can share it themselves within their spheres of influence.
3. Send those members out into the communities surrounding the church as everyday missionaries.

That's it. This is God's master plan for the church. It was effective then and is effective now if only we have the courage to pursue it. Together, let's examine this text and our hearts, seeking God and his ways to see the Gospel roll out of our tongues as we rub shoulders all through Indianapolis!



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DISCUSSION

- What do you believe is the role of professional church staff, pastors, and missionaries, and what impact should they have?
- What do you believe is the role of church members/believers, and what type of impact should they have?



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: Please feel empowered to use only the questions that are helpful for the context of your group.

As Pastor Joey emphasized, the church doesn't need more professional missionaries; it needs more everyday missionaries. The church was always meant to send its people out into the world, not merely be a place to invite people for staff to minister to them. As part of this community, each of us plays a crucial role in this mission.

- Why do you think the church in America is becoming more professionalized and consumer-oriented with fewer everyday missionaries?

Extract the Truth

Read the text: Acts 19:8-10

- What jumps out to you from the text?

Paul's stint in Ephesus is his longest and most effective. Pastor Joey said that if there is a model for church planting in the Book of Acts, this is it. Here is Paul's strategy:

- i. Build Small Groups of Jesus Followers into connected, supported, self-sufficient groups that gather to sing, pray, read, and obey scripture.
- ii. Teach members of that group of those groups to explain what new life in Jesus means so they can share it themselves with their sphere of influence.
- iii. Send those members out into the communities surrounding the church as everyday missionaries.
- iv. That's it. This is God's master plan for the church.

- Why do you believe this has been so effective in the history of the church?
- Paul mentioned that he ran up against stubborn hearts that resisted this call. Why do you think that was, and where do we still see that today in the church of the West?
- Which part of this strategy is missing in our church, and what should we do to remedy it?



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Experience Transformation

We need to change things about our church training, programming, and culture to become a group of everyday missionaries. Faith Church leaders are aware of and attempting to make these changes through Life2Life groups. But nothing will change unless we desire to become everyday missionaries and take responsibility for ourselves in the power of the Spirit to become one.

- Do you desire to be an “everyday missionary”? Why or why not?
- What obstacles stand in your way of that desire?
- What help do you need to overcome those obstacles?
- Who can give you that help?
- This group can be a place for encouragement and help as we strive to become everyday missionaries. One possible way is for individuals to join Life2Life groups. Another is for this group to become a Life2Life Group. What can this group do to help us all grow in this area?

Prayer

Consider Praying for:

- The Lost in our community
- Our Church’s impact
- Our Hearts to desire and act on sharing the good news of Jesus

**PREPARE FOR
NEXT WEEK:**

Read Acts 19:11-20

