

**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 264: THE RIOT AT EPHESUS**  
**ACTS 19:11-41**

God used Paul to do some very special miracles. Some people carried away handkerchiefs and clothes that Paul had used and put them on those who were sick. The sick people were healed, and evil spirits left them. Some Jews also were traveling around forcing evil spirits out of people using the name of the Lord Jesus. The seven sons of Sceva, one of the leading priests, were doing this. These Jews tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus to make the evil spirits go out of people. They all said, "By the same Jesus that Paul talks about, I order you to come out!" But one time an evil spirit said to these Jews, "I know Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" Then the man who had the evil spirit inside him jumped on these Jews. He was much stronger than all of them. He beat them up and tore their clothes off. They all ran away from that house without any clothes, all beaten up. All the people in Ephesus, Jews and Greeks, learned about this. They were all filled with fear and gave great honor to the Lord Jesus. Many of the believers began to confess, telling about all the evil things they had done. Some of them had used magic. These believers brought their magic books and burned them before everyone. These books were worth about 50,000 silver coins. This is how the word of the Lord was spreading in a powerful way, causing more and more people to believe. After this, Paul made plans to go to Jerusalem. He planned to go through the regions of Macedonia and Achaia (Ah-chah-EE-ya), and then go to Jerusalem. He thought, "After I visit Jerusalem, I must also visit Rome." Timothy and Erastus were two of his helpers. Paul sent them ahead to Macedonia. But he stayed in Asia for a while. But during that time there was some trouble in Ephesus about the Christian Way. This is how it all happened: There was a man named Demetrius. He worked with silver. He made little silver models that looked like the temple of the goddess Diana, also called Artemis. The men who did this work made a lot of money. Demetrius had a meeting with these men and some others who did the same kind of work. He told them, "Men, you know that we make a lot of money from our business. But look at what this man Paul is doing. Listen to what he is saying. He has convinced many people in Ephesus and all over Asia to change their religion. He says the gods that people can make by hand are not real gods at all. I'm afraid this is going to turn people against our business. But there is also another problem. People will begin to think that the temple of the great

goddess Diana is not important. Her greatness will be destroyed. And Diana is the goddess that everyone in Asia and the whole world worships." When the men heard this, they became very angry. They shouted, "Great is Diana, the goddess of Ephesus!" The whole city was thrown into confusion. The people grabbed Gaius and Aristarchus, men from Macedonia who were traveling with Paul, and rushed all together into the stadium. Paul wanted to go in and talk to the people, but the Lord's followers did not let him go. Also, some leaders of the country who were friends of Paul sent him a message telling him not to go into the stadium. Some people were shouting one thing and others were shouting something else. The meeting was very confusing. Most of the people did not know why they had come there. Some Jews made a man named Alexander stand before the crowd, and they told him what to say. Alexander waved his hand, trying to explain things to the people. But when the people saw that Alexander was a Jew, they all began shouting the same thing. For two hours they continued shouting, "Great is Diana of Ephesus! Great is Diana of Ephesus! Great is Diana ...!" Then the city clerk persuaded the people to be quiet. He said, "Men of Ephesus, everyone knows that Ephesus is the city that keeps the temple of the great goddess Diana. Everyone knows that we also keep her holy rock here. No one can deny this, so you should be quiet. You must stop and think before you do anything else. "You brought these men here, but they have not said anything bad against our goddess. They have not stolen anything from her temple. We have courts of law and there are judges. Do Demetrius and those men who work with him have a charge against anyone? They should go to the courts. Let them argue with each other there. "Is there something else you want to talk about? Then come to the regular town meeting of the people. It can be decided there. I say this because someone might see this trouble today and say we are rioting. We could not explain all this trouble, because there is no real reason for this meeting." After the city clerk said this, he told the people to go home.

# THE RIOT AT EPHESUS

(ACTS 19:11-41)



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**ACTS 19:28-29**

# 264. THE RIOT AT EPHEBUS

## ACTS 19:11-41

### MEMORY VERSE:

*"So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed."*     **ACTS 19:20**

### **Review Questions**

#### True or False

1. God did not use Paul to work any miracles.
2. The word of the Lord was spreading in a powerful way, causing more and more people to believe.
3. During that time there was some trouble in Ephesus about the Christian Way.
4. One man was telling people that Paul was saying that gods made with hands are real gods.
5. When the people heard that Paul was saying that gods made by hand are not real gods, they were very angry.

### Questions

1. When the seven sons of Sceva tried to make an evil spirit go out of a man, saying, "By the same Jesus that Paul talks about...", what did that spirit say and do to them?
2. What did Paul say about gods that are made by hand? Are they real gods?
3. When the people were angry because Paul said that gods made by hand are not real gods, what was it they kept saying over and over?  
Great is..... (Diana, the goddess of Ephesus)
4. When all the people went into the theater to have a meeting, yelling and shouting, did Paul's friends the other disciples want him to go inside?
5. When the city clerk talked to the people to get them to be quiet, did he say that Paul had said anything bad about their goddess Diana, or that he stole anything from her temple in Ephesus?

## Lesson 264 Craft/Activity

### Paul's Handkerchiefs

Cut several different colors of construction paper into 1" strips. Stack them so they are thin enough stack to cut through and make triangles out of the 1" strips. Take whole sheets of construction paper and have your class fold them in half to make cards. With glue sticks let them paste the different color triangles to make whatever pattern or picture they would like.

Explain to your class that they are making get well cards or cards of encouragement to anyone they know that needs it. As they work, go around the class and ask each student who his card is for. Pray with each child for the recipient.

Tell your class that even though these cards don't have the supernatural power to heal, God does and we need to pray for those who are sick.

### PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be faithful to the Lord, asking him to make each life fruitful. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.