



**LC STUDY GUIDE: DONE IN SYNC WITH  
THE “LIVING ON MISSION” SERMON SERIES  
The Passage – Acts 19:1-20  
For LCs meeting 11.3.13–11.16.13**

***Preface: This is Global Awareness Week and we encourage you to take some time to reflect, discuss, and pray about what God is doing throughout our community and throughout our world. This is an abbreviated study and taken from last week’s sermon text.***

*These LC studies will complement the sermons, often using the same biblical texts, and will help your LC go deeper in personal understanding and application. These italicized portions are meant to resource and help you in leading and not to be distributed to the entire group (it limits conversation). Not all these questions need to be used in your LC meeting. Best to consider this a head-start and customize these for your LC study.*

**Study’s BIG Idea: Only through the power of the Holy Spirit can Christ-followers do great things in the name of God.**

**Acts 19:1-20**

**1** While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples **2** and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

**3** So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?”

“John’s baptism,” they replied.

**4** Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” **5** On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. **7** There were about twelve men in all.

**8** Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. **9** But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. **10** This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

**11** God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, **12** so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

**13** Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of the Jesus whom

Paul preaches, I command you to come out.” **14** Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. **15** One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” **16** Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

**17** When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. **18** Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. **19** A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. **20** In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

**O** – Of all the questions Paul could have asked the disciples he found in Ephesus, which one did he focus on?

**I** – Why is the Holy Spirit so central to Christian theology?

*(The third person of the Trinity is God’s presence and power come to this world after Jesus ascended. When Jesus prays a “Helper” is coming, He is referring to the Holy Spirit. It’s the Holy Spirit doing the things of God throughout our lives and throughout our world.)*

**A** – Many Christ-followers throughout the ages have misunderstood the role and power of the Holy Spirit. How can we be better attuned to the work of the Spirit?

**O** – What happened after Paul prayed and baptized them and how can we process this miracle? *(Speaking of tongues and prophesying is a common theme in the book of Acts when it comes to the person and work of the Holy Spirit.*

*Concerning speaking in tongues, we have to be careful to avoid the extremes. We can’t say, “That just doesn’t happen anymore” because we risk blasphemy when we put God in a box and speak for Him. The other danger is to copy and paste what God is doing in a particular context. The sign gifts may not be a common thread in my life, or in our church, but we must celebrate that God works in many different and beautiful ways throughout the global church. Let us be grateful anytime there is an authentic expression of the power of God displayed in this world!)*

**O** – As was Paul’s practice, upon arriving in a city he would go to the temple, proclaim Jesus, debate, and get kicked out (more or less). What would he do next and what else do you observe happening in scenes like this one?

**I** – Paul ends up receiving an incredible opportunity preaching and teaching in the Hall of Tyrannus every afternoon for more than two years in Ephesus. Describe what this allows and why this is so advantageous.

*(People are witnessing the power of the Holy Spirit at work through the message and miracles Paul is doing. Further, Ephesus was a port city, a city focused on religion,*

*superstition and magic, and home to the Temple of Artemis, one of the wonders of the ancient world. Paul's ministry receives an enormous amount of attention in this context and the message flourishes.)*

**I** – The priest sons of Sceva decide they want to steal a page out of Paul's book and fail because though they say the name "Jesus" they are not really submissive to his authority – they only want what comes with the success of the miracle, the attention, the praise, and the following. What similarities have you seen between Sceva sons and people in your experience?

**I** – After Sceva's sons are beaten up by the demon-possessed man and exposed as frauds, Paul's ministry grows even more and many come in repentance, throwing away their valuable scrolls. This will actually set up a riot that will take place in the next few verses! Why are people doing this?

*(People are realizing that God's hand is truly upon him and this gospel message of Jesus.)*

**A** – How can we avoid making the mistakes of Sceva's priestly sons?

**A** – How can we allow ourselves to be used by the Holy Spirit?

**Key: O – Observation. I – Interpretation. A – Application**

- a. **Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single meeting.** Take some time and select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your LIFE Community group. Certain questions work better for certain groups. You are encouraged to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best.
- b. Complement OIA questions with "process questions" (what else? what more? what do others think?).
- c. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don't rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- d. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
- e. Application: Pace the study to conclude with "difference making" application.
- f. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into "teaching," rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.