

# Crossway Life Group, Week of October 20

See sermon notes on [CMC's webpage](#) for background information

## Community

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Take time to share and pray for each other's concerns and joys.

**Scripture: Acts 19:21-20:1 Sermon: "Fight or Flight or ..."**

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### Reading & Discussing Scripture

- **Introduction:** In response to a threat or danger humans are inclined to fight or flight. When does that happen in people like us? Which are you more likely to do: fight or flee? Why might that be? What danger or trouble or problem or pain or... threatens you today?
- **Background to Acts 19-20:** During his missionary journeys, Paul stayed in the city of Ephesus for two years for an extended time of ministry. **Read Acts 19:10 and 19:19-20.** During this time, in what ways did the Gospel go WIDE (reaching many people) and DEEP (big changes in each person)?
- **Read Acts 19:21-22.** What are Paul's next ministry plans?
- **Read Acts 19:23-41.** A deep and wide response to the Gospel (the Way) led to a 'great disturbance'. What were the sources of disturbance? What brought peace? How does this single story about disturbance fit into the greater story of Acts and the story of God's powerful expanding kingdom? In other words, how do you see the parts of this passage supporting the big idea (below)?
- **Read Acts 20:1.** Paul encouraged the believers in Ephesus. While we do not know the specific encouragement in that moment, we have a letter he wrote later. **Read Ephesians 6:10-13.** How are those words a fitting encouragement to the Ephesians?
- Do you have any other questions about the Bible passage or the sermon?

### The Big Idea

**While a deep and wide response to the Gospel may bring great chaos or trouble or opposition  
God is greater still  
and His Kingdom will still come with His peace and joy and goodness**

### Application & Reflection Questions

- What practices help you see the bigger view of God and His work, rather than just the smaller view of our trouble and our efforts?
- Where is God calling you to bring the Gospel to people? Who in your life has not yet deeply understood the amazing news of the gospel? What can you do to help them gain this understanding?
- Where is God calling you to go deeper into the Gospel?
- **Read Ephesians 6:10-13.** What does it mean and look like for you to **stand in God's mighty power and in God's ways**, especially amid whatever is threatening you? How can your life group support one another in going wide and deep?...especially to find encouragement to stand (instead of fighting or fleeing)?

### Growing in Cultural Understanding

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As seen in Ephesus, a **DEEP** and **WIDE** response to the Gospel leads to a great disturbance in any other system or culture. Have you been part of a family, church, country or culture that has experienced a wide response to the gospel, either in your generation or prior generations? What aspects of the culture changed? What would bold faith look like to see the Gospel reach deep and wide in your current cultural context?

## Serving beyond ourselves

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What are ways that your group can be for the benefit of people beyond yourselves?

### Acts 19:21-20:1—Riot in Ephesus- New International Version (NIV)

<sup>21</sup> After all this had happened, Paul decided to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. “After I have been there,” he said, “I must visit Rome also.” <sup>22</sup> He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer.

<sup>23</sup> About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. <sup>24</sup> A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there. <sup>25</sup> He called them together, along with the workers in related trades, and said: “You know, my friends, that we receive a good income from this business. <sup>26</sup> And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that gods made by human hands are no gods at all. <sup>27</sup> There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited; and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty.”

<sup>28</sup> When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” <sup>29</sup> Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia, and all of them rushed into the theater together. <sup>30</sup> Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. <sup>31</sup> Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theater.

<sup>32</sup> The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there. <sup>33</sup> The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander to the front, and they shouted instructions to him. He motioned for silence in order to make a defense before the people. <sup>34</sup> But when they realized he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

<sup>35</sup> The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: “Fellow Ephesians, doesn’t all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven? <sup>36</sup> Therefore, since these facts are undeniable, you ought to calm down and not do anything rash. <sup>37</sup> You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess. <sup>38</sup> If, then, Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a grievance against anybody, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. They can press charges. <sup>39</sup> If there is anything further you want to bring up, it must be settled in a legal assembly. <sup>40</sup> As it is, we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of what happened today. In that case we would not be able to account for this commotion, since there is no reason for it.” <sup>41</sup> After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

<sup>20:1</sup> When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said goodbye and set out for Macedonia.

### Ephesians 6:10-13-- - New International Version (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.