

## Unfinished – Week 12

### Paul in Ephesus

Small Groups – Bethany Church Long Beach

#### Intro:

What was “the takeaway” (the most important point) from Sunday’s sermon and/or the sermon text, in your opinion?

What insight from Sunday’s sermon did you find most helpful, or eye-opening, or troubling (pick any or all of the above)?

#### Read Acts 19

1. In Acts 18:24-26, we read that Apollos had been in Ephesus but that he only knew the baptism of John. Now in chapter 19 we read that Apollos is in Corinth and Paul is in Ephesus. While in Ephesus, Paul encounters disciples. How would you describe these disciples?
2. Role play: How do you think Paul and Barnabas agreed to split up? With which one would you have sided? Why?
3. In verse 2 they answer, “No.” Some say this indicates that they were not really saved but were only disciples of John. What do you think?
4. Is it possible to believe in Jesus and not receive the Holy Spirit? Please explain.
5. What part does the Holy Spirit play in the church today? In your life?
6. How would you explain the Holy Spirit to a new believer?
7. Paul asks these disciples what baptism they received and they reply, “John’s baptism.” What was John’s baptism?
8. Why was his baptism not enough or complete?
9. Does this mean that they did not know who Jesus was? Please explain.
10. Verse 5 states that on “hearing this” they were baptized again. What did they hear?
11. Why was it necessary for them to be baptized a second time? What baptism did they receive this time?
12. What does it mean to you to be baptized “into the name of Jesus?”
13. Can you think of any circumstance where a person should be baptized a second time?
14. What happened to the disciples when Paul laid hands on them? What does it mean to you for the Holy Spirit to come on someone? To be filled with the Holy Spirit?
15. Have you personally experienced the Holy Spirit coming upon you? If so, would you share it?
16. What can we learn from Paul about discipling new believers?

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17. Paul then goes to the synagogue where he was once again “arguing persuasively” about the kingdom of God. What is the kingdom of God?
18. Verse 10 says that **all** the Jews and Greeks in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord. Find a map that shows the province of Asia. This may sound like a simple question, but what does “all” mean to you?
19. Can we honestly say that all in the people in LA county have heard the word of the Lord? In Long Beach?
20. Read vv. 18-19. What two things occurred as a result of this demonstration of God’s power?
21. How do you feel about “public confessions” of evil deeds? What is the relationship between believing and confessing sin?
22. Today, do we see these two “operating” together? Please explain.
23. Verse 19 says that a number of people burned their scrolls publicly. If this were to happen in Long Beach, what might our “scrolls” be?
24. Based on the passage, what implications are there for us in terms of missions?

**Pray together as a group**