
Application Guide: Acts 19

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

- a. There are places in America where witchcraft is openly practiced. There are still medicine men/women, mediums or shamans that communicate with spirits. What would you say if you were invited to go to one of these places on a mission trip? Why?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Picture it: Imagine you are walking down the street one day, going to the pharmacy to pick up a prescription for your grandmother who is ill, and one of your friends comes running up holding a handkerchief. Your friend tells you that this handkerchief can heal people because it had been touched by an evangelist who has just come to town. Your friend claims to have seen other people healed when they touched it. Would you:

- a. Forget about your grandmother's prescription and run home with the handkerchief
- b. Get both the prescription and the handkerchief to take home
- c. Tell your friend s/he is crazy and in need of counseling
- d. Laugh at your friend's overactive imagination

Why do you think you would respond in the way you chose?

According to the next part of this story, if a person doesn't fully believe in and understand God's power, they cannot successfully use it. Acts 19:13-16 talks about some people that tried to use the name of Jesus to cast out demons and, rather than causing the demons to flee, were beat up by the demons and stripped naked!

Why do you think these people were unsuccessful in using God's miracle-working power?

Do you think being used by God to perform miracles is more dependent on a correct understanding of the detailed, step-by-step process of "how" to do it, or more dependent on the kind of relationship a person has with Jesus? Why?



3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

- a. The Bible says that just before Jesus' second coming, demonic activity will be greater than it is now and the power of the Holy Spirit will also be even greater than it was during the time of the Apostles as recorded in Acts. Do you think it is necessary to prepare in advance for this time of intense spiritual activity or can you just wait until it starts happening? What can you do specifically to prepare yourself for this time?
- b. Make a list/plan of how you would like to prepare, including starting dates/times and resources/people you will need to help you be successful.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Pray for Jesus to open your eyes to the spiritual activity around you. Ask Him to help you stop taking His miracle-working power for granted and to recognize things in your life that aren't actually "good luck," but actually blessings or miracles from God.
- b. Ask Jesus to help you to be used by Him as a part of a miracle in the life of someone else. Ask Jesus to help you maintain a heart that is sensitive to His leading.

5. Outreach Idea

Take a prayer walk with some friends around your church, school or neighborhood. Pray for God to give you the opportunity to touch someone's life in a special way as you engage in this activity.

