

WE ARE ALL WITNESSES

THE BOOK OF ACTS

How the Church Grows

Dr. Mike Vanlaningham | Acts 19:1–10

ICE BREAKER: Who is a hero in your life?

UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT:

In Acts 19: 1-10 why did people need more than John's baptism? What does that teach us about believing in Jesus?

Read Ephesians 1:13-14. When does this verse say that we receive the Holy Spirit? What else does the verse say the Spirit does?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

Read John 16:7-15. Why does Jesus tell the disciples 'it is to your advantage that I go away' and what are three things the Spirit does according to this verse? Do you see evidence of this in your life? In all this, how is the Spirit's purpose in verse 14 fulfilled?

How does Paul's actions and responses to hard situations resemble Christ, especially in the fruit produced in others' lives?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

This text highlighted 4 characteristics of leaders: (1) Teach the truth. (2) Take advantage of tough situations. (3) Don't quit when things get difficult. (4) Train others. Who have been some of those people in your life? Take time to thank God for them, and ask God to continue to bless them.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

Of the four characteristics described above, how can you be more intentional as you grow in your discipling of other people, so that more and more people hear 'the word of the Lord' (v. 10)?

PARENTING:

Read Acts 19:8-10 together and talk about what that means. As they do, let them know that standing up for the Lord and the truth of His words will cost something, but it will always be worth it in the end. Even though the people around them might not listen to them, God will use everything for His good according to His plan and purpose.

FURTHER STUDY:

For more on the Holy Spirit, read '10 Reasons to Study the Holy Spirit' at crossway.org or 'The Baptism and Indwelling of the Spirit' at thegospelcoalition.org. Also at The Gospel Coalition, read the companion articles: 'Why I Am a Continuationist' and 'Why I Am a Cessationist.'