

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Confrontation

August 17 & 18, 2019

When the mission threatens the powers and principalities of this world, conflict and confrontation are inevitable. Being on mission requires courage! We can learn something from this about witnessing our faith. Knocking other people's belief is not an effective tool of evangelism. The Gospel is spread by a loving, heart-felt living out God's love using your actions and trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: ACTS 19:23-41

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Ephesus had been a commercial trading center, but timber overharvesting and overgrazing of the land had filled the rivers with silt and ruined much of their trading business. Instead, Ephesus relied on tourism, especially pilgrimages visiting the temple of Artemis.

Demetrius, the silversmith, is so upset about the mission work of Paul. It isn't that Paul's teaching has singled out their temple, but the implications of there only being one true God and his only Son, Jesus Christ, can't be good for those who make their living selling silver statues of Artemis. He is upset by the mass conversion that happened earlier and begins to count the potential cost. He makes a stirring speech to an anxious crowd. He even convinces them that Paul has made an attack on the temple and Artemis herself.

Paul did not arouse the opposition of the silversmiths by picketing the temple or staging anti-idolatry rallies. All he did was tell the story of Jesus and then sent out his converts to witness to the people in the city. As more and more people got converted, fewer and fewer customers were available

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What can we learn from Paul in this story when it comes to confrontation in our faith?
- When have you heard others put down another's faith or religious practice?
- How do you respond when someone puts down your faith or religious practice?
- How do you tell others about your faith when theirs is different from yours?

APPLICATION: This week, consider how you can tell your story without attacking someone else. Listen first and seek understanding...then tell your story.