

Marinating in God's Word: Acts 19:11-20

Sent! They were and we are. So we're learning from Acts about what it means to be sent by Jesus, with Jesus' people, to do Jesus' work, in the power of Jesus' Spirit!

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- Have you ever experienced an event (a miracle?) for which you had no natural explanation? What happened? Many of us have had prayers answered in ways that rearrange our understanding of how life works. We've made room for miracles as God engages us and our world. So what is it about v. 11-12 and the miracles reported here that seem to be too much of a stretch?
- Luke labors hard to distinguish between how the Spirit moves in power through Jesus' people and how the pagans and others practiced magic. How is that seen in the humorous story of the "wannabe" exorcists in v. 13-16? What is your wisdom for how we can avoid turning our prayer practices into attempts at magic?
- Have you ever been involved in a book burning, literal or otherwise? What was that about? In v. 18-19 Luke tells us about a big book burning – 50,000 silver pieces big! Who did the burning? Why?
- Two happy descriptions of the Ephesian advance of the gospel are here: v. 17, "the name of the Lord Jesus was praised," and v. 20, "the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed." What precipitated those happy results? What might do so in our setting?

Next week our focus will be on Acts 20:7-12.