

LESSON PLAN

UPROAR AT EPHESUS

Acts 17, 19

Lesson Memory Verse: Isaiah 44:6 - "...I am the first and I am the last; and beside Me there is no God."

Lesson Aim: To teach the children that idols are against God and should be hated and rejected.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – Be plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): There was a man that loved the music of the world. He spent thousands of dollars collecting the music that he loved. He had a special room for all of his music. He bought expensive electronic equipment so he could listen to this music. Then he got serious with God and wanted His power to bless his life. He became convinced that his music was between him and God. Music had been more important to him than God. But he wanted God to take the place of his music, so He decided to sell all of his equipment and recordings of music. But then he thought that he would be giving his idol to someone else. That would not be right, so he destroyed all of his recordings of worldly music. Now he is living for God and has His power in his life.

HE (for Authority): God is speaking in our Bible verse for this week and He says He is the only true God. Anything that we love more than Him is not worthy of our time and money. (Print Isaiah 44:6 on a large poster board. Read it and explain it to the class.) God says, "I am the first and the last," He is saying that He is the one and only God. We should worship and serve Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mk 12:30). Anyone or anything that is more important to us than God is a sin against Him. Satan wants you to love other things more than God, but those things do not deserve first place in your life. God says, "...beside Me there is no God." Do not even worship an image of God, because He forbids it (Ex 20:3-5). God is Spirit, so worship Him in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:24).

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In today's lesson we will see that Paul got into much trouble because he told people to believe and worship the living God. He also told them to turn away from false gods. Let us find out what happened to Paul and his friends when they told people the truth.

I. In Athens (Acts 17:22-34)

A. **Paul preached on Mars Hill (17:22).** This place was next to their great temples for their false gods. Paul could easily see these temples as he preached.

B. The people of Athens had an altar to the Unknown God (17:23-31).

1. They had many, many gods, but they still felt a need to worship one more. It was one that they did not know (17:23).
2. Paul told them about the Unknown God Whom he worshipped (17:23-31).
 - a. He made the world and all things in it (17:24).
 - b. He does not dwell in temples made with hands (17:24).
 - c. He cannot be worshipped with men's hands (17:26). Idol-making is one way that men try to worship their gods with their hands. Another way is to take care of idols with their hands. We cannot make God nor take care of God. Rather it is He Who made us and it is He Who takes care of us – Ps 100:3.
 - d. He gave us life; He is not like idols made of metal and stone; they have no life (17:28-29).
 - e. He commands us to repent of our sins (17:30).
 - f. He will judge the world by Jesus Christ Whom He raised from the dead (17:31).

C. The people responded to Paul in three ways (17:32-34).

1. Some mocked Paul (17:32).
2. Some asked Paul to speak again (17:32).
3. Some believed what Paul said. That meant they turned away from their idols and received Jesus Christ as their true God (17:34).

LESSON PLAN

WE: We need to ask Jesus Christ to be our God and Savior. If we do not, we are like those who worship idols.

II. In Ephesus – Acts 19:11-41 (This is the part of the lesson most teachers will present.)

A. Paul had power over the evil spirits by the power of Christ (19:11-12).

B. Sceva, an unsaved man tried to cast an evil spirit out of a man by Jesus (19:13-16). The evil spirit would obey Jesus and he would obey Paul because he trusted in Jesus, but he would not obey Sceva because he did not know Jesus as his Savior. Instead, the man who had the evil spirit, leaped on Sceva and his seven sons; he tore off their clothes, wounded them and chased them out of the house. Only those who know Jesus Christ as their Savior can have the power of Jesus Christ.

C. What happened to Sceva became known (19:17). It caused great fear to come upon Jews and Greeks. Jesus' name was magnified because people now realized how powerful Jesus was.

WE: If we believe Jesus is more powerful than Satan, we need to worship Him. Praise Him for His power.

D. Many believers confessed their deeds in the world of Satan and his evil spirits. (19:18-19). Believers brought their books and works of magic and burned them before everyone. The cost of all these things was 50,000 pieces of silver. Why did they burn these things?

1. They were like idols to them. These things were supposed to help them do miracles, but what they did was to make them work with evil spirits. They had been letting these things take the place of God.

2. Now they were afraid of making God angry with them by keeping these books that had been used by Satan to take them away from God.

3. They wanted to worship and serve Jesus Christ and Him only.

WE: What things do we love that take us away from Jesus Christ? Could it be worldly music, sensual movies and TV programs, drugs or sports that keep you from attending Sunday school and church? Anything that is more important to you than Jesus, who gave His life for your sins, is an idol and must be destroyed.

E. The clean testimony by the Christians made God's Word more effective (19:20).

WE: We need to live a clean life for God by getting rid of our sinful things in our lives like the Ephesian believers.

F. Demetrius loved idols because he made much money by making idols (19:23-41).

1. He hated Paul who preached against idols; it took away his business and he was losing money (19:23-27). When money is more important than God, then money is a god to that person.
2. He stirred up the anger of the other idol makers to oppose the preaching of Paul (19:25, 28).
3. They stirred up the whole city of Ephesus to oppose the preaching of Paul (19:29).
4. They caught some of Paul's companions and rushed them into the theater where a great crowd gathered (19:29).
5. Paul wanted to quiet the crowd, but his friends kept him from entering the theater (19:30-31).
6. The people were confused so they cried out for two hours, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians" (19:32-41). Diana was their goddess and they were trying to protect her. How foolish they were to worship an idol that they had to protect.

WE: We must not allow any idols in our lives. We should worship the one true God. Anything that we love more than God is an idol. Anything that takes us away from God is an idol. Beware of idols.

BE (for Action): If you love something or someone more than God, we urge you to ask God right now to forgive you and get rid of that idol. He will help you if you really want His help. If you want me to pray with you after class, please raise your hand when we bow our heads for prayer, so I will know who to help.