

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

Scripture

Acts 19:1-10, 18-20

Session Summary

Paul's work in Ephesus demonstrates the power of the gospel to transform people from every religious background. He began with disciples familiar with the teachings of John the Baptist, then moved to a Jewish synagogue, and then to those involved in demonic witchcraft. God's messengers should know their audience and teach accordingly. Our teaching and preaching, like Paul's, should be versatile enough to reach those who are familiar with the Scriptures and those who have very little understanding of the Scriptures. We should be emboldened to speak, knowing that the message of the gospel transcends every culture and context.

Jesus saves us where we are and as we are, but He never leaves us the way He found us. The gospel transforms. The text tells of how the new believers publicly confessed and turned away from their sinful lifestyles. Their hearts had been transformed to love Christ and His kingdom more than sin or money. Despite the enormous financial investment they had in that lifestyle, they demonstrated the sincerity of their faith by forsaking their sins. If we remind each other of God's grace, warn each other of the dangers of sin, and express our unconditional love for one another, then we will be the kind of church, group, and individuals that experience the transformation that occurred in Acts 19.

- Why is the gospel effective and relevant for both church and unchurched people?
- What are some examples of how the gospel has been transformative for our family?
- How do our actions show that we have truly turned to Christ?
- How can we create a family environment where confession and repentance is a normal part of how we live?

The Ephesians gave up some very valuable things in order to follow Christ (19:19). Challenge each person in the family to give up something this week that is valuable to them in order to spend more time focusing on Jesus. They could replace that time by reading Scripture, journaling, or finding ways to serve. At the end of the week, share what you all learned from your time spent focusing on the Lord.