



## Cohort Conversation Guide

### Week of October 14th: Pastoral Encouragement – Holiness

1. **Connection Question for the week** – (Ask) Who is the holiest person you know? What stands out to you about them?
2. **Scripture Focus**— Read through Acts 19:11-20 together before praying
3. **Pray**—Using Acts 19:11-20 as a model, spend 15-20 minutes praying through this passage together popcorn style (each participant voicing short prayers based on the text), while being sensitive to how the Spirit leads. Break it down by guiding based on-

Upward Reverence- Who is God/Jesus? How and why does He deserve to be praised? Praise the Lord for His power and authority seen throughout this passage including over evil spirits but also in our own hearts and lives as He leads people to repentance.

Downward Response- How should I/we respond to who He is? Note the personal nature of a relationship with Jesus, it is not Paul's Jesus that has power but our own personal relationship with Jesus. How should that lead us to live and act?

Inward Requests- Who/what should I pray for? This passage ends with many people who had practiced the magic arts repenting and forsaking their magic books to be burned. Who do we need to pray for to have this type of response to the gospel?

Outward Readiness- Where do I/we go from here? Ask God to make us this serious about our own personal holiness.

4. **Discussion Questions:** use some or all of these questions to unpack what you read
  - At the beginning of this section we are told of the great miracles that are happening even by objects that had touched Paul. Why do you think we get this description? What difficulties arise out of the healing power that is on display?
  - What do you notice about the logic employed by the itinerant Jewish exorcists and the sons of Sceva? What seems to be their motivation in trying to heal in Jesus' name?
  - How do the evil spirits respond to their attempts? What does that show us about the personal nature of a relationship with Jesus? How does their failure, shame, and nakedness highlight the true condition of their hearts?
  - Contrast this with the way the residents respond, in fear and praise for Jesus; and the way the believers respond, by confessing their practices, repenting, and burning their magic books. What is the difference between these responses? How does this instruct us about the pursuit of holiness?
5. **Application:** based on the discussion above help each other identify how God is leading



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- What areas of your life need a fresh look at your own personal holiness? What is God leading you to abandon in pursuit of Him?
- Pray for eyes to see our lives in light of God's holiness. Pray for closeness that comes from walking with Jesus not just talking about Him.
- Pray for one another.