



Cohort Conversation Guide

Week of September 23rd: Pastoral Encouragement – Proclaim God’s Word

1. **Connection Question for the week** – (Ask) What is one area of ministry that you feel like is particularly challenging right now?
2. **Scripture Focus**— Read through Acts 19:1-10 together before praying
3. **Pray**—Using Acts 19:1-10 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 being the only way for salvation, the only name given under heaven by which we must be saved. Praise Him for the people He has brought into your life to demonstrate His goodness and love for you.

Downward Response- How should I/we respond to who He is? Consider especially the two responses we see in the passage. The twelve believers who, upon being corrected, immediately respond in faithfulness to Jesus. Alternatively, consider the stubborn people in the synagogue who even after 3 months of persuasion, continued in their unbelief. What is God showing you in your life and how do you need to respond?

Inward Requests- Who/what should I pray for? The ultimate result of this passage is that over the course of 2 years, all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord. Pray for those who need to hear in your community specifically. Pray that your church would have a vision that everybody gets to hear.

Outward Readiness- Where do I/we go from here? Ask God to make us bold witness to proclaim His word wherever he sends us.

4. **Discussion Questions:** use some or all of these questions to unpack what you read
 - How is the beginning of chapter 19 connected to the end of chapter 18? Where did these believers who had only heard of the baptism of John apparently come from? Why is it important to proclaim all of God’s Word and not just some parts?
 - What are some possible ways that people could respond to finding out that what they had believed was incomplete? How do these 12 disciples seem to respond?
 - What is the role of the bold proclamation of the gospel? What effect does it seem to have for Paul when he proclaims boldly in the synagogue? How do the people respond there?



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- How could the gospel have been proclaimed to every resident in 2 years? What would this have taken? Do you think it was just by Paul?

5. **Application:** based on the discussion above help each other identify how God is leading

- Who is God leading your church to boldly proclaim His word to? What would it look like to see every person in that group at least have an opportunity to hear the gospel?
- Pray for clarity in priorities that would allow you to do that well. That we would be focused on maximizing His glory!
- Pray for one another.